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EDITORIAL NOTICE:—The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. He must also decline to enter into correspondence with writers of MSS. sent in and not acknowledged. It is preferred that MSS. should be typewritten.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Macaulay closed his article on Southey's 'Colloquies' with the following passage, which might have been written to-day, and which we earnestly commend to the State Socialists of the hour: "It is not by the intermeddling of Mr. Southey's idol, the omniscient and omnipresent State, but by the prudence and energy of the people, that England has hitherto been carried forward in civilisation; and it is to the same prudence and the same energy that we now look with comfort and good hope. Our rulers will best promote the improvement of the nation by strictly confining themselves to their own legitimate duties, by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course, commodities their fair price, industry and intelligence their natural reward, idleness and folly their natural punishment, by maintaining peace, by defending property, by diminishing the price of law, and by observing strict economy in every department of the State. Let the Government do this; the People will assuredly do the rest."

The deadlock at Washington is an instructive lesson in the manners of democracy. The British Ambassador, Sir Edward Grey, after waiting for three months to present his credentials to the American Sovereign, is obliged to come home without having done so. President Wilson is invisible, and continues to defy his enemies in the Senate from his bedroom. If Mr. Wilson is seriously ill, or too ill to conduct business, why doesn't he allow the Vice-President to take his place? The Vice-President's office was created to enable State business to be conducted in the event of the President's death or illness. In the meantime, the world of Central Europe stands still, or rather it drifts faster and faster towards bankruptcy, starvation, and anarchy. All this could not have happened under a monarchical government, even our own. The invisibility of Mr. Wilson reminds us of the celebrated illness of Lord Chatham in 1767, when he disappeared from the world for two years, being Premier at the time.

Whether it is true or not, the Prime Minister was bound to assure us that the Five Powers—Britain, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan—were in perfect accord during the Conference of the week-end.

That is the conventional language; we hope it approximates to facts. And yet, if the subjects were the partition of Turkey and Hungary and the Adriatic question, it is difficult to imagine these five Powers being in agreement. France and Britain and Italy are all interested in the carving up of Asiatic Turkey, and what is left of Turkey in Europe. Italy is the only Power that is really interested in the eastern shore of the Adriatic, and in the division of Hungary between Roumania, Serbia, and Croatia. It would be well if England and France made up their minds whether they are going to support the Latin or the Slav races in the East.

Of all the problems which the Great Powers have been called on to solve as the result of their victory perhaps the most difficult is that of Hungary, not only because of the dense ignorance of the statesmen who have to settle it, but because of the inextricable confusion of races and religions to be found under the Crown of St. Stephen. In Hungary there is the governing race, the Magyars, now the landowning aristocracy, once an invading horde of Tartars; and under the Magyars there are Roumans, Slovaks, Germans, Ruthenes, Croats, and others. The Magyars were more than half the population, but the Roumans were 16.54 of the habitants, the Slovaks 11.82, and the Germans 11.76 according to the census of 1900. The mixture of churches is extraordinary. The Roman Church claims half the nation, and is drawn from Magyars, Germans, and Slovaks. Calvinism (14 per cent.) is confined to the Magyars. All the Serbs and a majority of the Roumans (13 per cent.) are orthodox Greek; while the remainder of the Roumans and all the Ruthenes are Uniats (11 per cent.), i.e., orthodox ritual, but owing allegiance to the Pope. There is a small residuum of Lutherans (7 per cent.) common to Slovaks and Germans.

It might seem a simple matter to transfer the large number of Hungarian Roumans in Transylvania to Roumania, which is one of the few Balkan States with a Government, and this, we understand, has been agreed, as the reward of Roumania. Unfortunately, however, as Mr. Toynbee points out, the heart of Transylvania is inhabited by an important non-Rouman population. There are the Szekels, a flying column of the Magyar host which became entangled and isolated in the Transylvanian hills, and there are the Saxon towns, a curi-

ous German enclave. To put a million Szekels and Saxons under Roumans is bound to cause trouble. But in addition to the Kingdom of Hungary the Crown of St. Stephen comprises the Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia beyond the southern bank of the Drave. It is an appalling problem, which perhaps can best be settled by those who know nothing about it.

The Government certainly got itself and the Coalition into a sufficiently ludicrous position over the Bill for the limitation of coal-owners' profits. After Mr. Bonar Law had lectured the recusant coalitionists into acquiescence by telling them that the Government must keep its pledge to the Labour party, it was discovered in the debate that the Labour members were going to vote against the Bill. Surely if the Government Whips know their business, this fact might have been ascertained before the debate began. The reason given by the Labour Members for their opposition was that the Bill was to become inoperative after next March, and they objected to one-year legislation. This sounds plausible, but if the miners really want nationalisation, they ought to have jumped at the Bill, because, as we have pointed out before, the 1s. 2d. limitation of profits must lead to nationalisation.

Lord Curzon may lead the House of Lords, but he must not lecture it. We are glad that Lord Salisbury had spirit enough to resent the scolding which Lord Curzon administered on the subject of the Douglas-Pennant inquiry. For a member of a Government which is spending hundreds of millions on fantastic socialist schemes and subsidies to fuss over the £10,000 spent on the Pennant inquiry is rather absurd. And the Lords did well to grant the inquiry, for Miss Pennant began with a strong case which was turned into defeat by sheer mismanagement. With regard to what was the original subject of inquiry, the intrigue to get rid of Miss Douglas-Pennant, the report is only the opinion of five peers. An intrigue must always be a matter of opinion, and the Banbury Committee took a different view from the peers, as did Sir Godfrey Paine.

With captivating candour Major Lloyd Graeme has given us a glimpse of what we may expect if the Protectionist party should get control of the Coalition. He asked whether German scissors were being sold in London at a wholesale price of 18s. 6d. per dozen, while the wholesale price of similar scissors in Sheffield was 39s. per dozen. On being told that was so, he asked whether any action would be taken to check the continued importation of such articles at a price with which the British manufacturer could not compete. We have seldom seen the Protectionist case more brutally put. At a time when the cost of living is reducing millions of our most respectable citizens to the verge of ruin, consumers are to pay the difference between 18s. 6d. and 39s. on their scissors, in order to fill the pockets of the steel millionaires of Sheffield, who, as Sir Auckland Geddes drily observed, "are doing extremely well."

Lord Curzon on the second reading of the Indian Government Bill expressed his opinion that India would not be so well governed as it has been under the existing system, but added that it was better that people should be ill-governed by themselves than well-governed by others. This is amazingly frank, and contains in a nutshell the insane and dangerous doctrine of self-determination. It is a confession that government, as the science and art of ruling nations wisely, justly, and for their own benefit, is impossible in modern times. It is an admission of impotence that bodes ill for the peace and happiness of the coming century. Another curious argument for the Indian Bill is that the delicate and complex machinery of administration should be handed over to a people admittedly unfitted to use it for the purpose of their political education. These are the counsels of despair.

Everybody is (or ought to be) reading Mrs. Webster's book on the French Revolution, which cuts large chunks out of the democratic theory that it was a

revolt of the People against an oppressive Aristocracy. Amongst other things Mrs. Webster tells us about the Spartacists, which is a name affected by some modern revolutionaries in Germany. Spartacus was the leader of a rising of slaves in ancient Rome; but in the eighteenth century the name was adopted by Weishaupt, a Bavarian professor, who founded a revolutionary society sometimes called the "Illuminati," and sometimes Free Masons. It is instructive to note that at the time of the great Revolution, Germany was playing the same game as she played before the great war, stirring up plots and revolutions in all the countries of the world. Frederick the Great was cleverer than Kaiser William II, but his resources were nothing like so great. Frederick, like William, had a Von der Goltz; but he had no Bertha Krupp.

The parallel between the Bolshevism of to-day and the Jacobinism of 1790 is almost exact. The Reign of Terror in Paris lasted two years: Bolshevism has lasted two years, and we should say is approaching its end. The Whig leaders, Grey, Sheridan, and Fox, the drunkard Tom Paine, the half-mad Lord Stanhope, in sympathising with the Jacobins played much the same part as some of the Labour leaders and one or two members of Parliament play to-day in sympathising with the Bolsheviks. Nothing is to our mind more shocking than the approval bestowed on Bolshevism by a large section of the working-class. When Colonel John Ward, one of themselves, tried to tell the working-men the facts the other day, he was heartily hooted, and could with difficulty be heard to tell a part of his story. As the Bolsheviks are a hundred times more cruel than the Jacobins, it is not pleasant to think that their sympathisers might conceivably form a government in this country.

The correspondence between Lord Rosebery and Sir Howard Frank is an unpleasant reminder of the absolute power of the bureaucrat, and the danger in which everybody stands who owns any property. During the war Lord Rosebery's best farm, growing much food, was seized by the Munitions Ministry under the powers of DORA, and converted into an aerodrome. The war being over, Lord Rosebery naturally expected that his property would be handed back to him with payment for user and damage. On the contrary, he read in some newspaper that his best farm was to be sold by the Ministry together with some 68 "filthy hovels" that had been placed on it. When he asked for an explanation, he was told that the Government, having spent a great deal of money in trying to convert the farm into an aerodrome, were now going to get some of it back by selling the farm and the huts; and when the owner asks what title they propose to give the buyer, he is told that another Act called the Acquisition of Lands Act has been passed, by which he loses his "best farm," at a price.

Lord Rosebery easily "gets the sword" of such "puny whippers" as Mr. Kellaway and Sir Howard Frank. It is both unbecoming and foolish of these two gentlemen to embark on a wordy warfare with Lord Rosebery. Unbecoming, because Lord Rosebery has occupied an illustrious position in our public life, and every respect should be shown to his declining years. It is foolish, because, old as he is, Lord Rosebery is a past master in controversy, and has no difficulty in putting his adversaries in the wrong. Mr. Kellaway and Sir Howard Frank simply miss the points, which are that the farm was taken for a purpose that was not effected owing to stupidity and extravagance; second, that the farm and the buildings were offered for sale before they had been purchased from Lord Rosebery under the Acquisition of Lands Act.

The brief final report of the Currency Commission is not such a ridiculous mouse as the *Times* affects to think. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is going to adopt two of its three recommendations and consider of the third. The withdrawal of the Treasury minute of 1914 providing for the issue on loan of currency notes

to joint stock banks and the fixing of the actual maximum fiduciary circulation of currency notes in any one year as the legal maximum for the next ought to have considerable effect in reducing the paper currency. But Lord Cunliffe's Commission saw too clearly that the national trouble is moral rather than financial, or, more precisely, that the financial trouble arises from the moral. People won't work, they won't obey orders, and they will spend. That is a disease which the Currency Commission cannot "purge to a sound and pristine health." It is the business of the statesman.

On the other hand, Mr. A. M. Samuel told the House of Commons that the cause of our trouble is, not inflation of currency, but inflation of bank or cheque credits. A few weeks ago Lord Peel, in answer to Lord D'Abernon, stated in the House of Lords that the deposits in the Banks (exclusive of the Savings Banks) were double what they were before the war, giving a figure that practically corresponds with Mr. Samuel's amount of bank credits. We want to know whether Lord Peel and Mr. Samuel are *ad idem*, as lawyers say. In other words, are Lord Peel's deposits the same thing as Mr. Samuel's cheque credits? Surely all the bank credits cannot be loans and overdrafts: some of them must be savings and realised profits waiting investment, or left on deposit because cautious people prefer bank interest to buying securities in these times. If we understand Mr. Samuel, his remedy would be that the banks should call in their loans, and he may be right. But it would cause something like a panic on the Stock Exchange.

We are delighted to hear that Tory Trinity is about to issue a counterblast to Bolshevik Balliol, its next-door neighbour. Next term there will be issued by some undergraduates of Trinity (Chatham's College) a weekly paper called "Facts," as an antidote to the poison of Tawneyism. The dry light of facts is what is wanted to correct the senile visions and dangerous idealism of the Master and Fellows of Balliol. In our day Trinity was useful to Balliol men as a means of clandestine entrance through a window after the gate was closed. To-morrow Trinity will discharge the prouder and more useful function of exploding the economic absurdities of its big brother, who has chosen to ally himself with the extreme wing of the Labour Party.

Mr. Justice Sankey has decided that the Government cannot prohibit the importation of goods by proclamation. That the Customs Authorities, acting on instructions presumably from the Board of Trade, should have thought it legal to seize some chemicals imported from America opens our eyes to the danger of the continuation in peace of the arbitrary powers given to officials in war time. Messrs. Brown and Forth, chemical manufacturers, were the consignees of packages of pyrogalllic acid, bought in Canada but shipped from New York. The Attorney-General contended that His Majesty was entitled to prohibit the importation of any goods: the defendants replied that this argument was bad, as it was an exercise of "dispensing power." The Judge decided that the proclamation was illegal and invalid. This is a relief, for if the Crown by proclamation could control exports and imports, a Protectionist Government might, without the consent or even knowledge of Parliament, revolutionise our trade. It was the attempt to exercise a dispensing power that cost James II his throne.

Policemen continue to be murdered, almost nightly, in Ireland. The *Freeman's Journal* has been suspended by the Government, because it published articles undermining the discipline of the police force, and ridiculed the Executive for its determination to protect the lives of policemen. An action at law against the Government has been begun by the *Freeman's Journal*. Notwithstanding that the matter is *sub judice*, Mr. T. P. O'Connor abused the privilege of Parliament by raising a debate on Wednesday. Mr. O'Connor said that articles had appeared in the *Times* quite as bad as any in the *Freeman's Journal*, which is perfectly true, but then England is not Ireland. Mr. O'Connor quoted

a sentence from the *Times* that there was on the part of the Government "a plot to provoke Ireland." Has our Polypapist fallen as low as this? Luckily, he has lost all influence on public opinion in this country.

Sir Arbuthnot Lane in his address to the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease used these words: "It was an indisputable fact that irregular intercourse had greatly increased, and that the average moral code of young women had altered very materially for the worse. That moral degeneration, especially among the women, would not disappear for a very long time, in spite of all attempts to educate and improve the tone of the community." Turning to the other sex, two bank managers have been shot at in the last fortnight: jewel robberies, both from shops and private houses, are of daily occurrence: while a police magistrate, who sits in the East End, compendiously describes the neighbourhood of the docks as "a den of thieves." One firm alone suffers an annual loss of from £10,000 to £15,000 a year by robbery. Altogether Mr. Lloyd George's "country fit for heroes" seems in a fair way of becoming a country fit for harlots and thieves.

There is no truth in the statement that Lord Londonderry will be appointed Secretary or Under Secretary of State for the Air Force. His position at the Air Ministry is an independent one, and is likely to remain so. Now that the Air Force has got rid of the "motor-stiffs" and garage keepers, the sham colonels and shady contractors, who infested its operations during the war, and brought it into such discredit, let us hope it will "purge and live cleanly like a gentleman." In other words, let us trust that the financial and contracting departments will be in reputable and competent hands. But we have not done with the Loch Doon aerodrome yet. Mrs. McAdam of Craigengillan, Ayrshire, is claiming in the Court of Session £150,000 for the ruin of her property. Mrs. McAdam says that "the only result of the action of the Department has been to expend wastefully large sums of public money and largely to destroy the value of her property."

By his promptitude in ordering his soldiers to fire on a mob of native rebels at Amritsar in April last General Dyer certainly prevented a massacre of whites, and probably stopped something like a mutiny in the Punjab. The General is now being assailed by Polypapist Northcliffe and other Radical organs just as Governor Eyre was attacked in 1867 for suppressing the rising in Jamaica. The Governor tried Gordon, a black Baptist preacher, by court martial and had him executed, and for three weeks continued the punishment of rebels, shooting some and flogging others. A Jamaica Committee was formed in London, with Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer, and Huxley at its head, to promote the prosecution of General Eyre. Carlyle and many others vigorously defended the Governor. The grand jury threw out the bill for his prosecution, and Parliament voted the Governor a sum of money to pay his legal expenses. Apparently the Northcliffe and Radical papers want to make a victim of General Dyer.

There is something about expert knowledge and reason that cannot be waved away by official platitudes, or answered by journalistic ignorance. Lord Moulton's onslaught on the Electricity Power Bill in the House of Lords has, colloquially speaking, knocked the measure into a cocked hat. The district boards have been abandoned, and as the expense of buying out the existing companies proved on examination to be enormous, the better plan of leaving them alone and appointing commissioners to co-operate with them has been adopted. Lord Moulton also drew attention to the great danger of concentration of power and very long cables of current, which could more easily be seized by strikers and anarchists. Similarly, the bill for the limitation of coal-owners' profits has gone down before the weighty volume of expert opinion directed against it. If a trade is prosperous, the State Socialist says, "Seize it; to the public belongs the profit!" If it is unprosperous, he says "Seize it, why cumber it the earth?"

NATIONAL UNITY IN IRELAND.

THE Irish Bill has been postponed, for which brief respite we have to thank M. Clemenceau, whose visit to London is a reminder to our Government that there are questions more important to the peace of the world than the reward of Irish treason by the grant of Home Rule. The Home Rule Bill is to be postponed till next session, and in the meantime we implore the British electors, the predominant partner, to reflect seriously on the dangers of the path on which they are being invited to enter.

The self-determination of nationalities is the fashionable cant of the hour, than which no more dangerous doctrine was ever propounded to the world. It means the right divine of masses of ignorant, passionate, unreflecting, men and women to misgovern themselves, and in so doing to inflict incalculable hardship and injustice, not only on themselves, but on their neighbours, and on the dissident minority that must exist in every State. The divine right of self-determination is claimed in the name of nationality, and, in the case we are now considering, of Irish nationality. What is a nation? Dr. Hearnshaw, in his admirable little book on 'Europe in the Nineteenth Century' (which is concise without being superficial),* gives five common marks of nationhood, though he admits that very rarely are all present, viz.: (1) geographical contiguity; (2) racial affinity; (3) linguistic uniformity; (4) religious similarity; (5) and economic community. In the case of Ireland, only two out of the five marks are present, namely, geographical contiguity and linguistic uniformity. Racially, religiously, and economically the North-eastern Counties of Ulster are sharply divided from the rest of Ireland. Upon the racial distinction between the Ulstermen of Belfast and its vicinage and the Celts of the Middle, South, and Western Counties there is no need to dwell. Their religious differences are as bitter as they can be, more bitter than is readily intelligible to the easy-going Englishman, though the Scots understand it well enough. Upon the majority of Englishmen their religion sits lightly; even our Puritans are substituting on occasion the lecture-room for the chapel. But the Presbyterians and Evangelical Anglicans of North-East Ireland do really believe in their religion as wholeheartedly as the Celts believe in theirs. From an economic point of view, the interests of the farmers and peasants of pastoral Ireland have nothing in common with those of the manufacturers in the North-East. It may be remembered that it was just this difference of economic interests between the Northern and the Southern States of America that brought about the civil war of 1861.

Dr. Hearnshaw, not satisfied with the five marks, gives as his own definition of nationality "that principle, compounded of past traditions, present interests, and future aspirations, which gives to a people a sense of organic unity, and separates it from the rest of mankind." Apply this principle to Ireland, and it is as fatal as the five marks to the idea of a separate nationality. The past traditions of Ireland are two, that of the conqueror and that of the conquered. Wring we our hands never so, shed as many tears as we like, the fact remains that the tradition of Catholic Ireland is that of a conquered and frequently ill-treated race; while the tradition of Protestant Ireland is that of a conquering and frequently oppressing race. As for present interests, there is no economic community, as we have just pointed out: while as for future aspirations, we know that they are for a separate and independent republic in the minds of the majority, and for the maintenance of the present union with Britain in the hearts of the minority. There is absolutely no "sense of organic unity" here, and we defy Dr. Hearnshaw or anybody else to discover it.

But it may be urged that the differences between Ulster and the rest of Ireland are no greater than those between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Indeed, the analogy is very close. In the province of

Quebec there is a Roman Catholic majority, of whom the majority are French and the rest Irish, and there is a powerful minority of Protestant British, of whom the majority are, we think, Scotch. In the province of Ontario there is a majority of British, of whom many are Scotch and many are Orangemen from Ulster, and there is a small, aggressive minority of French and Irish Catholics. In 1839, when the population was sparse, these two provinces were joined under one legislature. But in 1867, when the population had increased very rapidly, each province was given a provincial parliament under the supremacy of a Dominion House of Commons. It is this model which, or something like which, we are invited to apply to Ireland. Has the Canadian plan been so successful, so harmonious, or so clean, that we should be eager to imitate it? Ask an English-Canadian living in the province of Quebec what he thinks of French priest-rulers? He will tell you that the priests interfere with the press, the theatre, and the marriage laws, annulling marriages between Protestants and Catholics, when it seems good to them. As for legislation, he will tell you that the Provincial Parliament, and even the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa, are honeycombed with corruption. Ask, on the other hand, a French or Irish resident in the province of Ontario what he thinks of politics, and he will tell you that it is a corrupt tyranny of Orangemen, who refuse to grant money to his Catholic schools. Is this the system that we are about to introduce in Ireland in order to "settle the Irish question"? So far as report may be trusted, the new Bill is based on the partition of Ireland by the establishment of two provincial legislatures, one for Ulster, and the other for the rest of Ireland. We do not know whether Ulster means the whole province, or the north-eastern counties. If it means the whole province, then as, numerically speaking, parties are nearly equal, it is a bad look-out for the property and good government of the Protestant corner in the North-East. But whether the Ulster legislature is to rule the province, or a corner of it, is there any party in Ireland that will accept dualism? We doubt it: the priests are against it; the Sinn Féiners are against it; and the Ulstermen certainly prefer to remain as they are. Is the Bill to be forced on Ireland? And if so, in what sense is it self-determination? We have always said that there is no Irish question to be settled, except the protection of life and property, the punishment of rebels and traitors, and the execution of the laws. Ireland, whether we regard her pastoral or her manufacturing interests, is now one of the most prosperous portions of the United Kingdom. If Canadian Home Rule be now forced upon her, it can only be to prove one of two propositions. Either it will demonstrate Lord Curzon's astounding doctrine that it is better for a people to be badly governed by themselves than to be well governed by others. Or it will plunge Ireland into Bolshevism and civil war, and thus prove the necessity of her reconquest by the bayonets of the predominant partner. Then Ireland will have a chance of being well governed.

THE NEED FOR LEGAL REFORM.

TWO facts must be obvious to anyone who comes into contact with the Law Courts at the present time. The first is that the average type of case which comes before the Courts is scarcely worthy of our legal institutions. The second is that in the cases which are brought the costs of the action are far higher than they should be.

We would go so far as to say that present conditions, especially in the King's Bench Division of the High Court, amount almost to a public scandal. The bench of Judges has never been more deserving of public confidence. Yet in the existing state of affairs, access to the Judges becomes impracticable to the people who are most deserving of services. Statistics on the point are not available, but the volume of litigation which arises out of the everyday business life of the community is comparatively small. Why? Simply

* An Outline Sketch of the Political History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century. By F. J. C. Hearnshaw. Macmillan. 2s. 6d. net.

because of the expense, uncertainty and delay of litigation under present conditions.

The business community resorts to arbitration, settles claims which should be contested, abandons claims which should be pressed; in fact, it adopts any expedient rather than fight out a case in the Courts of Law. This is not as it should be. Access to the Judges should be easy and cheap, and litigation should be the normal procedure of everybody who has honest doubts about his legal position. Present conditions, in the ordinary King's Bench Courts especially, amount to a denial of justice to the business community. In a measure this was realised some years ago, with the result that in the High Court a special Commercial Court was established with a simplified and less expensive procedure. The innovation was valuable, and has proved to be an unqualified success so far as it goes. The time has now come when the practical working of the other branches of the High Court, Chancery, Divorce and King's Bench in particular, should be scrutinised in the light of the experience gained in the Commercial Court.

There are three principal problems which should be tackled: Expense, Delay, and Uncertainty.

Under the heading of Expense, there is need for a reconsideration of all existing rules as to fees for counsel, solicitors and Court officials. One of the causes of the present extravagant cost of litigation is that comparatively few barristers and solicitors have enough litigation to keep them fully occupied; hence they demand unduly heavy fees for the cases which come to them. Of course, "star" lawyers on both sides of the profession are always in demand, but they are few in proportion. It is doubtful whether in any profession there is habitually so much unemployed talent as in the Law. If there were more litigation, fees would go down. If a K.C. were not compelled to have a junior in Court with him, if his junior were not compelled to demand two-thirds of his leader's fee, if there were more elasticity in the fees allowed to solicitors, if lawyers were not paid when they were not conducting their case; if all these and kindred practices were investigated, it would be found that there could be a great cheapening of litigation to the very real advantage of the public. In plenty of cases the existing practice works well, but in many more it results in the piling up of unnecessary costs.

It has been said that only those can cheerfully embark on litigation who are either very rich or very poor. The number of actions brought in the name of people who cannot possibly pay either damages or costs if they lose is a disquieting feature of present-day litigation, and produces much hardship among successful defendants. It also encourages the speculative lawyer, who, if his methods were known, would be generally regarded as a disgrace to his profession. Until litigation can be made cheaper, the average man or woman will continue to dread resort to the Courts. This may be a healthy instinct, but in an imperfect world plenty of people are brought face to face with questions which need judicial decision, and it is not desirable that they should be encouraged by circumstances to resort to means outside our Courts for their settlement.

Delay is a simpler problem to tackle, and, happily, the authorities seem alive to its importance. At the present time there are non-jury actions awaiting trial in the King's Bench Division that were set down eight months ago. There is also serious delay in the Divorce Court. The Courts should abandon the ten weeks' "long vacation," the system of assize circuits should be remodelled, and judges on the active list should not be borrowed for work outside the Courts. But even these changes would not obviate delay. There should be a re-examination of the Rules of the Supreme Court with a view to eliminating much of the "interlocutory" work which at present takes place before actions are tried. Before Masters and Judges in Chambers large sums of money are spent, and weeks are lost. This could be and should be avoided. The Commercial Court has proved that much of this interlocutory work is superfluous, and it is time that a good deal of it was eliminated from the other courts.

Uncertainty is the consequence of our system of appeals. Seeing that any litigant may find his case carried to the House of Lords in consequence of varying decisions of the Judges, it is scarcely surprising that people try to avoid the Courts. The frequent over-ruling of the Judges of first instance by the Court of Appeal, and of the Court of Appeal by the House of Lords is not creditable to our judicial system. Where judgments are upset because Judges have erred, it seems inequitable that either of the litigants should be mulcted in all the costs. If public funds were made responsible in such cases, the Judges who caused appeals would soon be singled out from their more trustworthy brethren. It might also be considered whether the principle of the Criminal Appeal Courts might not be more generally adopted, namely, that appeals can only be brought on leave being granted. The present system, no doubt, produces many decisions which add to the volume of our recognised Law and are prized accordingly by text-book compilers. But when A sues B for negligent driving which caused him injury, neither of them is much the better for a decision of the House of Lords that the Court of Appeal was wrong in holding that the Judge misdirected himself. By that time the question of damages has become submerged in the bigger problem of costs. Such a position is doubtless important to the lawyers concerned, and interesting to the writers of legal text-books. But none the less, it is unsatisfactory for the litigants; it is bad both for the public and for the legal profession as a whole, since such a possibility frightens potential litigants away, thus depriving them of their constitutional rights.

We purposely refrain from being dogmatic as to possible remedies. But we suggest that the authorities and the two branches of the profession should consider the whole problem of legal reform with a view to eliminating unnecessary expense, delay and uncertainty.

There are other problems that should be considered. The fusion of the two branches of the profession has been suggested, but does not meet with the approval of either. Quite apart from this possibility, it should be made far easier for a lawyer in one branch to transfer to the other, if he finds in practice that he is more suited to it. Some of our present-day judges were solicitors before they became barristers, but the change involved them in a hiatus which must be very disconcerting to any young man. Many barristers are by temperament far more suited to the work of a solicitor than to work at the Bar. But at present a transfer is in practice extremely difficult and onerous. If such a transfer were easier, both branches would profit.

We can see no signs that at present there is in either branch any desire to initiate reform. But both barristers and solicitors are the servants of the public, and conditions are such that the public is becoming increasingly discontented, and rightly so. If reform from the inside is refused, reform from outside will ultimately come, and then there will be much wailing and gnashing of teeth. A critic in the *English Review* has recently written that "in course of time lawyers will become Civil servants"; he wants Nationalisation of Legal Practice. That would be disastrous for both the public and the lawyers. The best way to avoid so hopeless a remedy is by reforms that come voluntarily from within our legal machine; this can best be obtained by a close co-operation in the discovery of such reforms between the lawyers and the Judges and judicial staff.

THE TRIUMPH OF PARSIFAL.

SUPERFICIALLY the triumph of 'Parsifal' at Covent Garden this season appears extraordinary and unaccountable. In the midst of a horde of spend-thrifts whose pleasures have for the last year been mainly those of the courtesan and the billiard-marker, Sir Thomas Beecham produces an opera which is the last message of an old man disillusioned with the world and, like his hero, made wise by pity for the follies and

sins of the world. The opera begins at an hour which makes it impossible to dine. The greater part of it consists in the delivery of music in which there is nothing fashionable or obvious. The religious element in this music is not the popular religion of a sensuously conducted eucharist. Still less is it the ecstasy of salvationism or the emotional fervour of the flagellant. There is no thrill here for the sensualist turning to religion as a pick-me-up. There is, on the other hand, in this music, wisdom as passionless as that after which Socrates aspired and a pity so embracing as to make us feel that, if Judas had heard it, he would not have gone and hanged himself. And this is the opera which has been the most striking theatrical success of the London season!—an opera for which it was impossible to obtain a seat except by booking as soon as a performance was announced, and for which, failing a seat assured in advance, people were willing to crowd into a gallery where they must stand for nearly five hours without room to move.

All this cannot be dismissed as a freak of fashion. There is, of course, at Covent Garden on every occasion, a certain number of people who are merely supporting the directors, or are desirous of being seen, or are living up to an intelligent interest in the arts which to some extent is necessary to their position in society. But these are only a handful. There is also, as in every audience, a larger number of people who are there because everyone else is trying to be there, and who would be ready to accept reverently Boito's 'Mefistofele' as an essay in modern diabolism if the critics insisted. But it would be mere cynicism to try to explain the success of 'Parsifal' by saying that it is merely due to a whim of the moment. We must, in fact, assume that 'Parsifal' is popular because it answers to a real need of the moment sincerely felt by large numbers of people. These people cannot all be musicians. The musicians in London would not suffice to fill Covent Garden for a single night. Besides, musicians have been familiar with every note of 'Parsifal' for at least a generation, and they would certainly not besiege a box office with desperation to hear it again. The audiences at Covent Garden are people who like music and understand it up to a point, but they would not be there unless 'Parsifal' appealed to them on account of the subject treated and the religious and moral message they are able to read into it.

There has been no such delivery in music of Christian wisdom as we find in 'Parsifal' since Bach laid down his pen. Modern music is overrun with philosophy and mysticism, and Wagner himself had religious fits in his youth and middle age which prompted him to write music which puts him high among the Hall-Canaanites of all ages. But 'Parsifal' stands in a class by itself. The Grail music in 'Lohengrin,' when it is not mere landscape, is spiritual sugar-plums and éclairs and the pilgrim music in 'Tannhäuser' is no more than a fine ceremonial rumpus in defiance of Venus and her lures (in which Venus by no means comes off second-best). There is more religion in the song of the burghers in celebration of Holy German Art in 'Die Meistersinger' than in any of the earlier Wagnerian recoilings from the temporal feminine. But 'Parsifal' is a continuous outpouring of pity and charity, a perpetual offering of such comfort as only those can understand or intelligently accept who have suffered and experienced and pondered greatly the mischances and problems of life; it is an expression of Christian religious sentiment all the more remarkable as coming from an old man whose life had been one long story of egoism and self-assertion, all the more penetrating as being the work of Klingsor converted and redeemed by the mere logic of long life and acquired knowledge. The present success of such a work, extraordinary as it may seem at first sight, is the most natural event in the world when we come to think of the immediate need thousands of people must feel to-day for something spiritually more sustaining than a ghostly photograph of Mr. Gladstone or the ghostly communications of Robert to Ella Wheeler Wilcox. We will not plagiarise the best of Matthew Arnold's essays upon 'Pagan and Mediæval Religious Sentiment,' by discoursing at length upon

the connexion between troubled periods in the world's history and the advance or decline of the emotional prestige of the message which 'Parsifal' conveys. Turn to that essay, and read it in strict reference to the times in which we live. If there is anything in the essayist's contention, there should be among the rising generation a startling revival of the mediæval sentiment at the expense of the pagan sentiment which flourished in the days of pre-war posterity. The question is whether we have intellect and vigour enough to create our own 'Imitationes Christi' and our own 'Parsifals' to meet the need for a modern interpretation of the essential wisdom which is undying. So far not a whisper has come from our spiritual leaders and not more than a quavering snatch of song from our poets. Meanwhile, the people are crowding to 'Parsifal,' for something they have not yet found elsewhere.

Whatever form the new interpretation of the old wisdom may take, it is certain that there will be no mere return to the negative asceticism of the extreme mediæval ideal. The new paganism, which demands that religion shall henceforth respect and include a healthy development of the senses and the intellect, has come to stay. So much is made clear once for all in 'Parsifal' itself. We find in this music no sick rejection of life. Wagner has discarded his old obsession of the conflict between flesh and spirit which he posed so theatrically in 'Tannhäuser.' The wisdom of 'Parsifal' has room for beauty and delight. In this connexion we cannot sufficiently regret that 'Parsifal' is an opera. We see Parsifal tempted by the flower maidens and rejecting Kundry, and we see celibate knights apparently living a life of perpetual renunciation. But there is little of this in the music. The music of the flower maidens is as much a part of the wise and beautiful world in which, musically, we move as the music of Good Friday morning. Wagner could not help writing almost continuously in the same vein of tranquil loveliness. The world he offers us for our comfort is disturbed by no evil intrusions. The exception proves the rule, for the music of Klingsor, which otherwise might rudely shake our serenity, simply does not exist. It is a mere preliminary humming or tuning up. Wagner, who was no dramatist, could not give his mind to anything that lay outside his mood of the moment, and Klingsor happened to lie outside it. The flower maidens were not outside it, and, so far as the music is concerned (which surely is all we need care about) there is no reason why Parsifal should not have relaxed himself a little in their company. By so doing he would be truer to his author, the musician, than to the legend of which he forms a part.

FLAGS.

FROM the beginning of civilization, man has demanded a flag, under which he may march and think himself a hero.

It is possible that, once upon a time, every man walked under his own topknot, a free man. But no record remains of that blissful period. Probably, no record was ever made; why should an independent individual care to leave "footprints on the sands of Time?"

"After speech was invented," says an old MS. *Librairie de St. Victor*, No. 697,680, "when two men, wearing topknots of different form, met, one tomahawked the other and attached the dead man's scalp to his own. When two congenial topknots met, they were plaited together, and the wearers walked inseparable." "On a time," says the MS., "two chiefs (called in that century 'Dooks') approached each other from opposite sides of a river, and challenged each other to fight. One, called Ba Li, was a pigheaded person of peculiar taste in pigtails. He had killed all he met, and wore their hair on his head to the amount of seven aistaks." (An "aistak," says a note, was an antediluvian monster like a legless elephant, only bigger). The other chief, Hum Fi, possessed a charming manner, and the tongue of the old Serpent. He had conciliated everybody he met, and he sat on the

riverbank, 179 of him, bound together by his scalps like a Broddingnagian bunch of radishes. Difficulties arose. Ba Li shouted, "Come over and fight, you coward." "How can I?" said gentle Hum Fi. "Even sitting down on a bank is like balancing on the back of a beast; swimming is like talking to an angry woman. You come over and fight here." "I don't think," said Ba Li. "With this weight on my head, you ass?" Hum Fi tried to conciliate Ba Li, but in vain. Ba Li went so far as to say he would give Hum Fi his daughter in marriage soon. (N.B.: This passage is obscure. The words in the original chopstick are "Ba Li said he would see Hum Fi mothered first.") Fortunately, a sage, who was gudgeon fishing in the river, suggested a *via media*. He advised that both chiefs should shave off their hirsute adornments, native and acquired, and, bearing them in their hands, meet. So said, so done. They met in the middle of the river. Hum Fi easily conciliated Ba Li, who was in the minority, and reigned ever after as "The good Dook Hum Bi," from whom the noble family of the Humbugs claim descent.

This according to the MS., was the origin of the flag.

Against the flag no sane man brings objections. It is handy for signalling by sea or land, though wireless and telephone have in a measure superseded it. A flag flown over a magnate's house is of use. So is a college ribbon. And why? Because every strip of bunting hoisted by the Navy, every wag of every flag-wagger, means something. The magnate's flag means that he is *sur ses terres*. So that, if you don't wish to meet him, you had better be called to town on business. The ribbon enables you to place a new face met in the High as of Brazenose or Wadham.

And "The Flag" comes to mean a great deal to some men. In Hum Fi's original flag, a bit of himself flew over every man of the hundred and seventy-nine, to wit his topknot. So it is still. A man lays down his life for his own belief, worked, for him, into the pattern of the banner he fights under. "It is not the saffron bag," said Mr. Caxton; "it is belief in the saffron bag. Apply belief to the nervous centres, and all will go well."

But some metaphorical "flags" do not appeal to us. Programmes, Platforms, Catch-words, religious, political, and sociological, are flags that often leave us cold, because we cannot guess their meaning. Of the hundreds who march under any given rag you shall scarcely find two who agree, or two to whom their flag means the same thing. To one it means a man, to another a measure, to some it means a habit—their fathers were Christians, or Radicals, or Pussyfeet before them. May not a plain man conclude that their vaunted rag may mean anything, and does mean nothing?

Quite a large crowd of world-betterers marches under Kingsley's "Divine Discontent." Kingsley wrote "to be discontented with the Divine Discontent . . . is the germ of all virtues." He, presumably, defined "the D.D." But his so-called followers applauded, under that name, the desire to get on in the world, to better oneself. Is that "Divine"? If so, "Ut puto, Deus fio." To the plain man it seems of Dick Mortiboy, worldly. If we ask how it is divine, the enthusiasts say, "Oh! it's Charles Kingsley." Is the plain man to blame if he doubts their having read 'Health and Education,' and is sure that they have not understood it?

Sinn Fein again, "Ourselves alone." The ordinary man says, "H'm. Bit selfish perhaps, but—certainly! Good idea! Best place for you!" Then he finds the Sinn Feiners, wearying of solitude, come intruding on his premises and dancing on his flower-beds. Can he believe that they really mean to "keep themselves to themselves?"

A friend of ours flies what he is pleased to call, "The Higher Selfishness." He is quite a good fellow, "little better," as Shelley said of Byron, "than a Christian." But he declines that title. He will not be, with Abou ben Adhem, written "as one who loves his fellow-men." He asserts that he doesn't love his fellow-man; that, with few exceptions, he dislikes him.

Asked why, then, he so often goes out of his way to do a kindness, he says, "Oh! that's my selfishness. No one else will help him; if I did not, it would be exactly like the blighter to starve. And, if he did, I might feel uncomfortable."

The above are more or less false colours. There are other flags, quite destitute of any meaning for those not in the know. What is the use of imploring a man to come and join the Fabians and with the Fabians Fab, if he does not know what a Fabian is? Lots of men do not know whether a Fabian rolls in beans, or waits and sees. They hear that So-and-so and What's-his-name are Fabians, but can imagine no flag beneath which S. and W. could march in peace together.

Then there is Bolshevism. Apparently, the Bolshevik does not implore, he compels you to follow the flag. Before our turn comes, some of us would be grateful to anyone who would explain the meaning of "Bolshevism." We see the fruits; but then we saw something very like them under the noble flag of "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité." Did not *L'Ami du Peuple* end by demanding 2,600 heads—of the *Peuple*—per week? Some friends are so difficult to satisfy.

Unless he knows what a banner means, and whither it goeth, the wise man will not enlist under it; he will thank the whiting kindly, but he will not join the dance. Therefore, let the next propaganda tell us plainly its object, and how its object is proposed to be obtained, not in high falutin sentiments, but in a language understood of the people.

FABLES FOR FABIANS.

III. WHO WON THE WAR?

ALL the animals were assembled one afternoon in the Ark of Caxton Hall to discuss the League of Nations, the cosmopolitan Camorra and the Pact of Pacifists, which would stem any future Deluge. Noah spoke very convincingly on the subject, being persuaded that, if Cain had agreed with his parents never to kill Abel, he never would have wished to kill him. But Mrs. Noah pointed out with commendable tact that Shem, Ham, and Japhet were already getting offensive, and that it might be as well to change the subject. So Noah, after pointing out that the Deluge had been expressly sent to secure Democracy, as was proved by the blended rainbow, begged the animals to decide which of them had, in effect, won the war. The horse came forward neighing, with weighty claims of signal and laborious service. The ox asserted lowly that as edible strength his pretensions were preferable. One after another, beast and even insect arrogated the glory to themselves, and the last and least of them made the most sound and fury of rivalry. Amid all this clamour an ass was heard braying, and, being derisively asked who he was, libellously answered, "The War Office." This, however, when put to the vote (on the Trade Union "card" system), was unanimously rejected. At last a mocking-bird advanced, and had the impudence to assert that he it was who had won the war. During the whole time, he allowed, he had never raised a feather to help it, and had consistently jeered at our soldiers and sailors. "But," he said; "why was this war undertaken? It was to make the world safe for Democracy, or in other words, for the dove to prevail. Now I was employed and paid during four remunerative years for incisive propaganda. And Noah will, I am sure, agree that my pert pacifism has in fact made the world secure for democrats to live in." To this the goose demurred, hissing out that democracy and the democrat are two incompatibles, while the poor dove, so touchingly mentioned, never got a coo in. Thereupon all the animals began fighting and quarrelling together, nor could Noah himself restore order till the lion and the eagle appeared, and, having demolished the mocking-bird, claimed that they were the real victors.

Moral: Arks are un-Arcadian.

WHEELS, 1919.

Why d'you write about Frascati's
 You who from the balcony leaning
 'Neath the lure that was Astarte's
 Find a negroid devil grinning?

Changed indeed, and almost stupid,
 Yielding to analysis,
 Now a Piccadilly Cupid,
 Hanging on a painted kiss.

Now a toy in two dimensions,
 Operated by a string
 In your hand, whose interventions
 Set the object capering.

You, who at the higher level
 Know love as he truly is,
 Not the fair Assyrian devil,
 Not the poor idolatries

Of the savage, not the crazes,
 Say, of Shelley and his set:
 But you find him (as your phrase is)
 "Palm to palm in quiet sweat."

That's a way, O brother, brother,
 A new way for verse to move;
 There's an older and another—
 Will you listen?—way of love.

I from that same terrace waiting
 For the music to begin,
 "Amoureuse" anticipating,
 Watched a boy who blundered in.

Slim he was, a little stooping
 At the shoulders, as it seemed;
 Eyes on which the lids were drooping,
 Seeing only what he dreamed.

Where he came was noise and clatter,
 But the pandemonium
 Either didn't seem to matter
 Where he stood, or else grew dumb.

And the waltz the band was creaking,
 Like a cluster round his head,
 Changed to cry "what's music seeking
 Save what he has left unsaid?"

And like flowers, bourgeois faces
 Overtaken by the tune,
 Pillered unimagined graces
 From an unimagined June.

And, when once again the babel
 Rose, though we had never stirred,
 There between us at the table
 At Frascati's was the Third.

"What's the good of all this antic?"
 You'll impatiently exclaim;
 Still incurably romantic,
 Still incurably the same.

Only this—that at Frascati's,
 If one does not watch one's hands,
 That old magic was Astarte's
 Goes, before one understands.

CORRESPONDENCE

STEVENSON ON PARLIAMENT.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Recently a correspondent quoted Macaulay at some length. May I be allowed to quote a little from the one political article of R. L. Stevenson, 'The Day After To-morrow,' now printed in his 'Lay Morals'? I make no apology for doing so, since all the people that I meet are heartily sick of the regular political writers, distressingly regular in their scribbling on political tactics.

Stevenson, writing in 1887, declares that we all know what Parliament is, and we are all ashamed of it.

"And this just at the moment when we begin to bring to it, as to an oracle of justice, the whole skein of our private affairs to be unravelled, and ask it, like a new Messiah, to take upon itself our frailties and play for us the part that should be played by our own virtues. For that, in few words, is the case. We cannot trust ourselves to behave with decency; we cannot trust our consciences; and the remedy proposed is to elect a round number of our neighbours, *pretty much at random*, and say to these: 'Be ye our conscience; make laws so wise, and continue from year to year to administer them so wisely, that they shall save us from ourselves and make us righteous and happy, world without end. Amen.' And who can look twice at the British Parliament and then seriously bring it such a task?"

I have italicised four words, which seem to me particularly in point to-day. Anybody seems able to get into Parliament for anywhere. A glib tongue, or any of the virtues included under the adjective "imposing," or the mere charm of novelty is a sufficient recommendation to the monstrous sentimentality and ignorance of the many-headed. After sending one more M.P. to join, or yield to, those who coalesce in dodging and paltering, they begin to grumble, when things are not done. But they have the Government they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
 W.H.J.

DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your contention that Democracy, in the language of the Iron Duke, cares not one twopenny damn for liberty, is in harmony with the opinions of Doctor Gustav Le Bon, whose writings have had such far-reaching influence in France during the last few years.

Le Bon explains how "*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité, si non, La Mort!*" was a fine sounding phrase coined by some drunken demagogue—probably Danton or Camille Desmoulins—a phrase which would be termed flappedoodle by our American cousins.

And eighteen-carat flappedoodle it is with a vengeance!—for, as Le Bon points out, only one of the three words had the slightest meaning for the *Sansculottes* of 1793, and that was Equality.

For Liberty, as Madame Roland discovered on the scaffold, democrats have in reality a positive hatred and thus, under a democratic Government, from cradle to grave, in the highways and in his home, the wretched citizen has to submit to an inquisition which is, in extremely democratic countries, a positive torture; his daily life is interfered with at every turn and his most private affairs are scrutinised; briefly, it may be said that Liberty varies inversely as the square of the Democracy!

Fraternity, under the Terror, was the rarest of virtues, which only manifested itself amongst the aristocratic victims of the guillotine, citizens tumbling over one another to denounce their brothers and sisters in the hope of saving their own skins, or feathering their own nests.

What fraternity is there to-day in Ireland, under Sinn Féin, the *soi-disant* Republic, where Irishmen shoot Irishmen in the back? Or, in the United States, where in the intervals of lynching niggers, Americans are denouncing their President's pledge to help America's Allies in their distress?

Finally, there remains to be discussed the second element of this democratic trinity—Equality. This, indeed, was, is, and always will be, the incentive of the professional agitator, with Liberty for ever on his lips and envy and covetousness in his heart. Because, as understood by the demagogue, Equality means unbridled licence to dance a carmagnole on God's eighth commandment.

Yours faithfully,

HERVEY DE MONTMORÉNCY.

34, Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.

THE CITY OF DREADFUL NIGHT.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—You have often, most advisedly, warned us of what we might expect from Mr.—or is he now "Professor" Tawney's professional expression of his social and economic views. But even your informed prescience failed to prepare us for last Sunday's reading of the *Observer's* interview of the new "Head" of Toynbee Hall.

Therein that aspiring leader of East End thought, and optimistic expounder of Municipal ideals, complacently remarked as follows:—"In some of our local boroughs, almost all the old members of Councils were rejected last month. Most of the new representatives elected in their place, have had no opportunity of acquiring administrative experience. It is therefore proposed to minister to the requirements of these newly elected Councillors, in a series of lectures on Municipal Problems, by the best available experts."

What a drab monotony of ignorance, what a tawney-coloured crew of incompetents, must we have chosen (in our admittedly guilty, apathetic indifference), that thus get elected first, and educatively informed and instructed after!

And this, Sir, for London, in 1920. And it is a sinister suggestion, indeed, that causes that new "Head," to state that "Professor" Tawney's own college is "arranging to bring Balliol men to the East End, in the near future."

Truly, Sir, a titanic engulfing of Canon Barnett's ideals!

Yours faithfully,
ANGLO-AMERICAN.

Colchester.

December 14th, 1919.

NATIONALISATION v. CAPITALISM.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The country has before it a great struggle on the policy of "nationalisation," and the only party who can effectively oppose it are silenced by the Party truce. Capitalism has been a failure because it was Free Trade capitalism. Nobody could say the same of the United States, where capitalism has not been ruined by the same policy. We belong to a country of great resources and the centre of an Empire of greater size and wealth than the States, but these resources have been squandered.

As regards manufacturing, this country produced about 80,000,000 tons more coal than Germany, but the whole of this surplus was exported! Was this not a case of selling a birthright? Yet Germany produced twice as much steel. As regards agriculture, as compared with Germany and allowing for the difference in size, we ought to have had three million more persons employed on the land.

We all believe that prosperity can only be ensured by increased production. How can this be effected without capital unless the Socialists are to have their way? An alternative policy must be offered, and Tariff Reform and Colonial preference is the only policy that will save the country. In 1913 four times as much capital was subscribed for public companies abroad, as for similar concerns at home. Surely labour can see that this policy was suicidal to them!

Sufficient Protection to induce capital to equip home industries with up-to-date machinery and methods would work wonders in producing wealth sufficient to satisfy all.

The existence of Capitalism is at stake, and unless Labour can be tempted, with definite offers of improved conditions, it may soon be too late.

If Mr. Lloyd George is really a Free Trader still, the country is being misled, because it rejected that party at the election so effectually.

Yours faithfully,
E. WRIGHT.

38, Bromar Road, S.E.5.
13th December, 1919.

MINERS' BABIES.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The capitalists (and whether they are Russian or German is not material) who run the miners, and railway agitation for Nationalization, have sent a notice to the Press that the mortality among miners' babies is 161 per 1,000, against 40 per 1,000 of doctors'. The idea of choosing doctors was clever, because if doctors do not know how to preserve the lives of their own babies, who would? Now there are certain facts that the £20 a week agitator is not particularly anxious to draw attention to. One is that the miners, coal is only 6s. a ton; so their houses ought to be nice and warm, however much the poor may suffer from their high wages, and this warmth ought to be good for the babies; and, secondly, the rents that miners pay are very low, as a rule. The Chairman of the Ebbw Vale Company has told us, that, if they choose, and some do, there are miners making £12 a week. Allowing that they are not caught going to sleep, as some were fined for doing, so as to keep down production and so make coal dearer for the poor, many are making £10 a week, and very few under £1 a day. Therefore, with a small rental and cheap coal, it is difficult to make out why the mortality should be 161 per 1,000. If a man has £10 a week, surely not more than £3 or about 30 per cent. need be spent on beer, tobacco, cinemas and betting. Therefore one cannot help thinking that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children should look into this matter, and prosecute the parents, so that these unfortunate babies should have a fair chance to grow up, so that they too may enjoy the same very fortunate existence of their fathers, who are able from the flabbiness of the Government, to blackmail the community, and injure the trade of the country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW W. ARNOLD.

The Junior Athenæum Club.

THE PLUMAGE BILL.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—All lovers of birds who are not slaves to the outrages of fashion will be glad to hear that a "Plumage Bill Group" has been formed to secure legislation at the earliest possible date, which will prohibit the importation into this country of birds' skins and feathers, other than those of poultry, the ostrich, and eider-duck. A Government Bill is promised, but pressure must be brought to prevent it from being shelved or reduced to a farce. Our legislature lags behind many others in tolerating cruelties which no lady should be able to contemplate with indifference.

The Group will receive gratefully any donations or offers of help. The Treasurer is Lt.-Col. Swinburne, 23, Eaton Place, W.1. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. Willoughby Dewar, 8, Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, Putney, S.W.15. He will be glad to supply all information required. Allied groups are being formed in Scotland and the provinces, and when the case for the birds is known—the movement was interrupted by the intervention of the war—the public conscience should be aware of the need for action. It should be realized, in fact, that fine feathers do not go with fine women.

Yours faithfully,
V. R.

THE LAW IN A NOVEL.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I have read 'The Reviewer's' letter to you on the above subject in reference to Mr. Rees's detective story 'The Shrieking Pit,' and I am afraid that your correspondent is equally as ignorant of legal matters as the average novel writer, or he would not have criticised the legal portions of the book in the manner he has done by calling them "absurd."

I should like to point out that in my opinion it must be very difficult for a novelist to write on legal matters in such a strain as suits the reader, and after all, the

novel generally is written for the purpose of amusement, and not in any way as a technical exponent of any scientific or legal matter.

So far as Mr. Rees's book is concerned, I think he has handled the matter fairly well, and as I was the managing clerk of the firm of solicitors having the conduct of the defence of the case to which he refers, I should like to answer the points raised by your correspondent.

As to the murder trial taking place without "apparently, any preliminary enquiry," I presume Mr. Rees has passed this over as not being worthy of taking up the reader's time and so starts at the day of the principal trial without reference to any preliminary enquiry.

As to the leading Counsel for the prosecution knowing "very little about the case," my experience of twenty-five years has taught me that senior Counsel are often not briefed until the very last moment, and I have upon many occasions known the senior Counsel to tell me the night before the trial that he had not read his brief, and therefore the reference to the "spoon-feeding" help of his junior is compatible with facts.

As to "the Crown Solicitor" all murder prosecutions are undertaken by the Treasury and the Solicitor is called "the Solicitor to the Treasury," which, of course, is the Crown, and your correspondent could hear the words "Crown Prosecutor" or "Crown Solicitor" spoken every day if he entered the Law Courts.

With regard to the most important point, namely, that the "Presiding Judge so far forgot the traditions of the Bench that, although the question whether the prisoner killed the murdered man was the first and foremost point to be determined by the jury, he told them, in his summing-up, that 'he did not think they would have much difficulty on that head,'" your correspondent seems to doubt this. I will give you the actual words spoken by the Judge at the time referred to by Mr. Rees:—

"Now, gentlemen, in this case the only question, substantially the only question—I think technically there are others—but substantially the only question for you is the state of this man's mind at the time in which he killed Mr. —. I say technically there are others, because technically you must be satisfied first, that Mr. — was killed by this man's act; *probably you will not have much doubt about that—indeed, it has not been seriously contested.*"

I have documentary evidence, including the transcription of the official shorthand writer's notes, which I am prepared to entrust to your care to satisfy your correspondent if he so wishes it, and if on reading it he will withdraw the somewhat serious allegations he makes against Mr. Rees.

I cannot find any reference to Section 4 of the Criminal Appeal Act on page 274 of the novel.

I could, if necessary, also satisfy you as to the truth of the statement with reference to the manner in which solicitors deliver their bills of costs.

If your correspondent will refer to the other "absurdities" he mentions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

Yours faithfully,

F. L.

A LIVING DEATH.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Apropos of the dramatic description of life in an asylum given recently by the plaintiff during an action before the Lord Chief Justice, I beg to state that this matter, viz.: the treatment meted out to sufferers from mental afflictions in both public and private asylums and similar institutions, is one to which public attention should immediately be drawn.

The general trend of public opinion on this subject is, I believe, that, although reform in the treatment of the insane is only of comparatively recent date, nevertheless the lines on which asylums are now run are unquestionably humane and that the institutions themselves are so organised and inspected as to safeguard the welfare of the inmates, to ensure their proper treat-

ment and to leave no possibility of the recurrence of the malpractices and brutal treatment of former times.

It was, I think, largely as a result of the writings and personal endeavours of the novelist Charles Reade, that such reforms as have taken place were brought about. The work in which he dealt fully with this subject is, as many of your readers are doubtless aware, his well-known novel 'Hard Cash.' In this work were exposed the most fiendish cruelties which at that time were practised upon the insane. I think, therefore, that the public generally would be amazed to learn that not only have exactly similar atrocities taken place in asylums during this twentieth century, but that in many of these institutions *they both can be, and are, now perpetrated.*

In spite of the fact that most people in this country must surely be in ignorance of this state of affairs, nevertheless there are a remarkably large number (especially among the poorer classes) who are under no delusions as to the sort of life—or to be more precise, "living death"—that they are likely to lead should they ever be unfortunate enough to qualify for detention in an institution for the insane. These are people who have themselves been inside these places, either as patients or attendants, or who have received their information from friends or relatives who have been in such positions.

In the majority of cases the inmates who are victims of these cruelties dare not complain for fear of the consequences to themselves. They know that they are entirely and absolutely in the power of their keepers, and it is customary for the latter to be present during any interview between patient and doctor or patient and visitors. If complaints are made, the reply "delusions on the part of the patient" is so simple and usually so effective. The word of the doctor or an attendant will almost invariably be accepted before that of a "mental" patient, although the latter term includes the less serious forms of mental troubles, such as melancholia, where the intellect may be entirely unimpaired. Finally let me add that *letters are intercepted, if addressed to solicitors, or otherwise suspected of being likely to cause trouble to the institution authorities.* In other words, patients are cut off from the remedy of the law against the maltreatment they suffer.

I enclose card, and sign myself,

A PATIENT FOR FIVE MONTHS.

15th December, 1919.

THE PARADOX OF GEORGE ELIOT.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I am pleased to see the point of George Eliot's accomplishments in learning emphasised by A.S.M. in your issue of 13th December. No one will accuse me of wishing to underrate such learning: I only regret that it is, indeed, Greek to an increasing number of readers to-day.

As for the paradox, it starts with the assumption that the acquirement of learning by great labour destroys creative insight. If that is true, education is worse than useless, indeed, a gross fraud, since its purpose is to draw people out, not to shut them up. I do not think it at all fair to take the popular view that the learned are in general pedants. That at any rate has not been my experience, and to-day we can see Prof. Murray drawing crowded audiences at a London music-hall by his translation of the 'Trojan Women' of Euripides. The excellent and long line of our lighter poets is bound up throughout, from Prior to the present editor of *Punch*, in classical learning.

But if George Eliot might have been expected to confine herself to learning of the sort which is esoteric, I suggest that she was saved by being a genius. In the rare and gifted persons who deserve that title the memories of youth are particularly sharp and vivid; and that season of flowers comes to fruit later. Emotions of her young days remembered in tranquillity roused George Eliot to creative insight. Outside that magic sphere her art was a comparative failure. She was never a poet, and sometimes she was a pedant.

Yours faithfully,

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

REVIEWS

A PERFECT WIFE.

Catherine Gladstone. By her daughter, Mary Drew. Nisbet. 12s. 6d. net.

THE Gladstones, Glynnes and Lytteltons formed a family group which was deservedly influential in the reign of Queen Victoria. Not that the group had much to do with what used to be called London Society, or with the perspiring crowd of *arrivistes* and intriguers who always hang loose upon political life. They were a group apart, by reason of their moral earnestness and the pure simplicity of their lives. They were not exactly popular, because nothing is so unpopular as the setting of patterns men have no mind to follow, and the Gladstone-Lyttelton gang were by way of setting a pattern of goodness to the rest of the world. And the family group had one weakness common to its members, a total lack of the sense of humour. Gladstone, his son Herbert, now Lord Gladstone, and his nephew Alfred Lyttelton, were all destitute of humour. Perhaps moral earnestness is destructive of the sense of humour: it would be a pity if it were so, for our public life could do with more men of the Gladstone-Lyttelton-Glynne breed. Anyway, the women of the group were just as devoid of humour as the men, of which we shall give two instances, one from our recollection, and one from the book before us. During Disraeli's premiership, between 1874 and 1880, when the Turk was fighting Russia, and the Bulgarian Atrocities were a raging topic, the female Gladstonians always spoke of themselves and the Liberal Party as "we Christians," as if the rest of the world were Turks, Jews, and Infidels. It was the arrogance of a prig. Here is the second example. In 1861, as the House of Lords had in the previous year thrown out the Paper Duty Bill, Gladstone included the paper duty in his Budget, which was decidedly smart, if verging on sharp practice. On which the Duke of Argyll wrote as follows to Mrs. Gladstone:—"I could not help being reminded of a saying of an old Scotch body to a friend of mine when he proposed something which she thought very ingenious: 'Eh! Wullie, Wullie, ye may dee for want of breath, but ye winna dee for want o' wiles.'" On which Mrs. Drew, the author of this biography, comments: "The Duke of Argyll's allusion in the letter which follows is rather obscure, but, as it was written on the day before the Budget speech of 1861, it probably refers to the measures taken by Mr. Gladstone to carry the repeal of the Paper Duty through the House of Lords." As old Creevey used to say, Did you ever?

It is this solemn imperviousness to a joke, and the mental habit of regarding all who differed from the head of the family (especially Liberal Unionists) as moral reprobates, that rob the memoirs and letters of the Gladstone group of interest for the exoteric world. The pious monograph before us is no exception. Mrs. Gladstone was religious, charitable, a good mother, blameless in the sphere of common duties, but above all a perfect wife to Gladstone, as Mrs. Disraeli was to her husband. But perfect wives are not good company, as a rule, to any but their husbands. Her daughter tells us that Mrs. Gladstone was absolutely bored with politics, except as relating to her husband's comfort and success. She was told everything by him; but she had nothing to say herself about anything, except William, or Mr. Gladstone. That was no doubt very soothing to William, but it could not make Mrs. Gladstone a good talker or letter writer. In short, so far as we can discover from this and other contemporary records, Mrs. Gladstone was a good but stupid woman. The most interesting letter in this book is one from Gladstone to his wife written after the famous Budget debate in 1852, when Disraeli was defeated. "Disraeli rose at 10.20, and from that moment I was on tenterhooks, except when his superlative acting and brilliant oratory absorbed me and made me quite forget that I had to follow him. He spoke till 1 a.m. . . . I am told Disraeli is much stung by what I said. I am very sorry it fell to me to say it. God knows I have no wish to give him

pain; and really with my deep sense of his gifts, I would only pray they might be well used." There are a number of other letters to Mrs. Gladstone which show what exceedingly dull and commonplace letters are written by very distinguished people. If Mrs. Drew had published more letters from her father, she would have made this tribute to her mother's memory more interesting than it can be to any except the family group.

'TWIXT CUP AND LIP.

Fame and Failure. By Julian Ellis. Werner Laurie. 12s. 6d. net.

MR. JULIAN ELLIS is a fatalist, who appears to think it is merely a matter of luck, "there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip," whether the rogue ends his life in a palace or a prison. It strikes us as a misuse of the words "fame and failure" to apply them indiscriminately to murderers and forgers, like Wainwright and Roupell, to royal victims of disease or policy like Maximilian of Mexico, Ludwig of Bavaria, and Rudolph of Austria, and to really unlucky men like Ferdinand Lesseps and Valentine Baker. Notwithstanding this rather absurd classification, Mr. Julian Ellis has written a very amusing book. His style is clear and lively; and he doesn't bore us with footnotes or authorities, which so often spoil the pleasure of reading biographies. While Mr. Ellis has no patience with brainless fribbles like Beau Brummell and the Marquis of Hastings, he has a decided sympathy with clever rascals like Edwin James and John Sadleir.

Perhaps Edwin James, Q.C., M.P., is the best sketch. The manners of the Bar and consequently the path to success have totally changed since early Victorian days, owing to the abolition of trial by jury except in cases of felony and libel. The loud-voiced bully has practically disappeared, and Edwin James would not have succeeded even at the Old Bailey in these times. Mr. Ellis traces his fall with so much knowledge of detail that we thought he must be a lawyer, until we came to his story of Roupell, who was a solicitor, member for Lambeth, and a wholesale forger. Solicitors do not have "chambers," nor are they "retained," and in using these terms about Roupell Mr. Ellis betrays the layman. We agree with Mr. Ellis that "blackmail" is the most probable explanation of the difficulties and the disgrace of Edwin James. For a great many years he was making from £5,000 to £10,000 a year at the Bar: he did not live extravagantly; yet he accumulated debts to the tune of £100,000, and under their pressure lied, and swindled, until he was disbarred. In quite recent years, there was another celebrated barrister, making a huge income at the Parliamentary Bar, who was always in pecuniary difficulties, and was hardly allowed to touch his own fees. Blackmail and Stock Exchange speculation are the favourite explanations of this kind of puzzle.

The most pathetic story in the book is that of Colonel Valentine Baker, in his way a genius, a really great cavalry commander, as well as a brilliant writer of military subjects, who ended his life in Egypt as Baker Pacha. We don't know what became of the woman who brought about his ruin: we believe somebody married her; we should not care to carry her memory or conscience.

As we said, Mr. Julian Ellis handles with something like loving care his clever scoundrels, and the chapters on Roupell and Sadleir are excellent. Solicitors have undoubtedly greater opportunities of forgery and embezzlement than other men. Roupell and Sadleir were both of them solicitors, members of Parliament, and figures of the Mid-Victorian period, the fifties. Both were men of great intellectual ability, and personal charm: and in each case the desire to shine in the social world was the motive to crime. Sadleir was the real Irish adventurer; and he arrived at the right moment, in the middle of the frantic railway boom of the forties. He became chairman of the London and County Bank and a junior Lord of the Treasury in Lord Aberdeen's Government. He killed himself on

Hampstead Heath by a bottle of prussic acid. It is too bad to put the poor Emperor of Mexico, Maximilian, into this gallery of blackguards. Maximilian was left to his fate by his brother, the Emperor Francis Joseph, and by the Emperor Napoleon III, and was murdered by the Mexicans. There is no new matter in this series of light life stories: but it is pleasant to refresh one's memory of the rogueries of the Duchess of Kingston, the terrible murder of the Duchess of Praslin, and the follies of Lady Hamilton.

A BOOK ABOUT A BOOK.

Cervantes. By Rudolph Schevill. John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.

THE Master Spirits of Literature' is an attractive title for a series, in which Cervantes is surely entitled to a place. But it is an open question how far books about books ought to be commended. The great critics of a hundred years ago, Hazlitt, De Quincey, Coleridge, Lamb, wrote books about books, which are a part of our best literature, and constitute the foundation and the model of criticism. But we may be allowed to say that a book about a book or an author is only tolerable when it is well written, by a critic of acknowledged competence, who is a master of the instrument which he wields. We are afraid that cannot be said of the volume before us. Mr. Rudolph Schevill is described on the title page as professor of Spanish, University of California. We do not know whether he is a Spaniard, and whether this book is a translation from the Spanish. All we can affirm is that it is not written in good English. We willingly recognise the professor's knowledge of the many works of Cervantes—the plays and Exemplary Novels are quite unknown to most people—and his enthusiasm for the great Spanish moralist is contagious. But we can't say that his comments on 'Don Quixote' are original or profound, or rise in any degree above the commonplace of a literary magazine. Nor is the book improved by the omission of sixteen pages between pp. 260 and 277, due, we suppose, to careless publication.

Byron had an idea, which he maintained with the brilliance and tenacity of all his paradoxes, that 'Don Quixote' was one of the most immoral books ever published. "Cervantes smil'd Spain's chivalry away," he wrote in 'Don Juan,' and he declared that to destroy the notion of chivalry in a nation was to destroy its idealism. Further, he argued that Cervantes had done more than any other writer to ridicule chivalry, or what we moderns call altruism, all over the world, and that therefore 'Don Quixote' was a very bad book. There is a good deal to be said for Byron's judgment on this, as on most subjects. But it may be answered that in the endless and immortal dialogues between the Don and his Squire Sancho Panza, the idealist is given quite as good "a show" as the realist. It is true that in the end the Knight acknowledges that he has been mad: but even on his death-bed, which is quite one of the most simply pathetic scenes in literature, as touching as Falstaff's, or Sir Roger de Coverley's end, Don Quixote manages to hold the scales between Rationalism and Idealism in a sane and pious manner. The most valuable parts of this volume are the long quotations from 'The Resourceful Knight, Don Quixote de la Mancha,' which may force hurried and superficial people to read a few pages from one of the greatest books that ever was written.

THE IRISH RIDDLE.

John Redmond's Last Years. By Stephen Gwynn. Arnold. 16s. net.

Ireland a Nation. By Robert Lynd. Grant Richards. 7s. 6d. net.

THOSE who studied John Redmond in the House of Commons must often have wondered what was really behind the handsome, but not particularly impressive, appearance; the easy, yet undistinguished eloquence and the faultless elocution. Was the mind of

a statesman at work, or were they listening to an able Irish gentleman who, having undertaken a duty that he had never sought, was carrying it out conscientiously, but without much enthusiasm? Mr. Stephen Gwynn, who knew John Redmond for a good many years, though not, it would seem, intimately—and Redmond's intimates were few—helps us to solve the question with a fair approach to conclusiveness. The impression derived from his well-informed pages is that Redmond was a somewhat ineffective Elisha to Parnell's Elijah. The honestest man of the two, he neither lied to the House of Commons, nor tipped the wink to the Terrorists. But he lacked Parnell's personal magnetism; he liked to go home to Aughavanagh and to stay there without troubling to keep in touch with his Parliamentary followers, or to Nationalist bosses in the Irish towns, and, instead of leading, he waited on events.

Mr. Gwynn aptly points out that John Redmond reached his position as Nationalist figurehead by a process of exhaustion. The choice of him as chairman "was less due to a sense of his general fitness than to despair of reaching a decision between the claims of the outstanding men (Messrs. Healy, Dillon and O'Brien)." He was thus president of a committee, with the task before him of maintaining an appearance of unity at all costs. Up to a point he succeeded admirably. His forgiving nature enabled him to ignore past insults; his methodical intellect placed clear decisions on paper, and he supported them in the House by speeches of equal cogency. But he failed to inspire the rank and file, who were never consulted, with political keenness, and left the choice of candidates to others. Parnell, in his place, would have acted in a very different fashion, particularly in his relations with the Government. He would never have acquiesced, as Redmond did, in the hanging up of Home Rule by Campbell-Bannerman. After the election of 1910 had placed the Nationalists in control of affairs, Redmond showed a curious reluctance to crack the whip over the ears of a bedevilled Ministry. No doubt, as Mr. Gwynn says, its weakness was in a sense his. Still the Home Rule Act, in its final shape, was a compromise which satisfied no single section of Irish opinion, and which Ulster was prepared to meet by rebellion. Its suspension, through the advent of war, was probably not unwelcome to John Redmond, and it is significant that in the abortive Convention he declined to give his followers any guidance whatever. Mr. Gwynn's revelations of the inner workings of that assemblage are of uncommon interest.

The fact is that John Redmond was a Home Ruler less through conviction than through inheritance. There was not a drop of rebel blood in his veins; in thought he never travelled far beyond Isaac Butt, whose colleague his father had been. And so, when the war broke out, he bravely attempted to pledge Ireland to the cause of the Allies, and took an active part in the recruiting of the 16th Division, which distinguished itself so greatly at Messines and elsewhere. Lord Kitchener's refusal to recognise the National Volunteers hit him hard. Mr. Gwynn puts the dilemma thus: "Those who then thought with Lord Kitchener can say now that events have justified his view. They omit to consider how far those events proceeded from Lord Kitchener's refusal to accept Redmond's judgment." Yet we get the significant incident that some time before the Easter rebellion there had been an ugly split on the question of service abroad while by-elections showed that Redmond's hold on Ireland had become a nullity. Mr. Gwynn treats the growth of Sinn Féin too episodically, and Mr. Robert Lynd ingeniously converts it, when blood was running through the Dublin streets, into Fenianism. But, call it what you like, the predominant temper in Ireland, outside Ulster, had become rebel and republican. Lord Kitchener's soldier's instinct directed him aright, but politicians like John Redmond and Mr. Birrell went egregiously astray.

The Irish riddle, which John Redmond left unsolved at his death, lies, we fear, beyond the powers of Mr. Lynd. He gives a clever little sketch of Irish history, and we agree with him that its Celtic period has been

wrongly regarded as one of unredeemed barbarism. He writes quite prettily about Synge and "A. E.," without persuading us that much of the poetry derived from Celtic sources, Patrick Peace's particularly, does not come dangerously near inanity. But, except in the ironical sense, we cannot say, as the reviewer observed of Mrs. J. R. Green's 'Irish Nationality,' "By God, this is a book!" Finance, the representation of minorities and other difficulties inherent in Home Rule do not trouble Mr. Lynd in the least, though, as Mr. Gwynn can tell him, they proved too tough for the Conference, despite the conciliatory efforts of John Redmond and Lord Midleton. He prefers to indulge in easy generalities about nationality, small nations and the League of Nations. His most tangible proposal seems to be that Ulster, having submitted its case to the League of Nations and substantiated it, should be allowed to "contract out" of an Ireland, which may be republican or colonial, according to the national will. The poor old predominant partner is to be quietly cold-shouldered, it appears.

DO GOOD QUICK.

His Family. By Ernest Poole. Macmillan. 3s. net.

NEW York as the city, *par excellence*, of hustle is a tolerably familiar conception to most Britons. But in this novel it appears under a more sympathetic aspect than usual, for the hustle there pictured is less of business than of philanthropy. Deborah Gale, the central character, and a charming woman every way, is engrossed with titanic, yet eminently practical schemes for ameliorating the condition of the slum population—more pitiful still it would seem than in London. Yet greatly as we admire her devotion and administrative ability, she gives us throughout an impression of acute and nerve-racking tension. This reaches its climax when we learn that at thirty-one she is supposed by herself and her friends to have become, through overwork, incapable of bringing a child safely into the world. We incline to the opinion that for such a woman it is not good to marry, and we have grave doubts, unshared apparently by the author, as to the success of the experiment. Her marriage is, after all, blessed with a son, but we cannot easily imagine him growing up to health of either mind or body. As foils to Deborah, we have her two sisters, one a mere "femme d'intérieur," having the virtues and faults of her type strongly accentuated; the other a society butterfly with no redeeming qualities in particular. There is also their widowed father, a pathetic, and rather original figure.

MODERN CHILDREN OF THE GHETTO.

Children of No Man's Land. By G. B. Stern. Duckworth. 7s. net.

IN this novel the interest is divided between two themes; the amorous adventures of a young English Jewess, and the hard case of her brother, who, between the accident of his own birth in Germany and his father's negligence in effecting naturalisation, finds himself on the outbreak of the war technically an enemy alien, while all his sympathies are on the side of his adopted country. We are drawn to compassionate the poor boy's dilemma, in which there is assuredly nothing impossible, and we feel relieved when he at last attains his heart's desire of being admitted to serve in the British Army. But we are otherwise affected towards his sister Deborah (usually Deb. for short), whose one steady aim in life is apparently that of compromising herself. This object she pursues with unflagging perseverance, though only partial success; and recurs to it even after her marriage with the respectable Hebrew, who has shown genuine magnanimity in overlooking a past more lurid still in his belief than in actual fact.

She and her friends, a most unlovely circle, do not, either by their theory or practice, merit that halo of dazzling novelty with which the author would fain invest them. The generic name which Deb. claims for her own peculiar type is taken from a novel of Marcel Prévost's twenty-five years old; and even in English

fiction a liberal handling of sex problems is a fashion of still longer standing. We must decline to accept the unspeakable heroine as a product of latter-day conditions. A strongly emotional religious influence, scarcely to be looked for from modern Judaism, might conceivably have directed her energies into a healthier channel. But we cannot visualise her as a white-souled maiden in whatever age or clime her lot had been cast. The book contains some highly coloured, but effective sketches of London Bohemianism and German domesticity.

COMMONPLACE AND ECSTASY.

Glory of Love. By Pan. Odham. 5s. net.

WHAT may be expected to happen when a sentimental young American with an immensely rich and hard-hearted father falls desperately in love with an artist's model of superlative beauty and virtue, whilst he is widening his knowledge of the world in Paris? The American millionaire, realising that his impulsive offspring shows honourable attentions towards the young lady, hastens, of course, across the Atlantic to prevent "the tarnation fool" from pursuing his folly, and succeeds, with the adventitious aid of an amorous artist whose attentions are less commendable, in separating the devoted pair. What more natural, again, than that circumstances should prove too strong for the blustering man of finance and should lead him eventually to implore the fascinating damsel to become his daughter-in-law? But this story, if conventional in design, is attractive in the telling. The vivacity and colour of Bohemian life, the *joie de vivre* of unconventional beings, are reflected in its pages. The style, though rather too exclamatory, has something of the rhythm of the twinkling feet in students' haunts in the Gauvinches woods. A commonplace plot is redeemed by a touch of ecstasy.

A WAR PROBLEM.

True Love. By Allan Monkhouse. Collins. 7s. net.

IN this story, which notwithstanding its name is a War novel, the device of emphasising the contrast between pre-war conditions, and those which supervened with such awful suddenness is, to our thinking, employed with unusually good effect. The scene is laid in Manchester; not considered, be it understood, as the industrial centre, but as the city of high-grade journalism and repertory theatres. The hero, Geoffrey Arden, is a writer of dramatic criticism for a daily paper not difficult to identify, and also of what in the ugly modern dialect are known as "highbrow" plays. Being, despite these distinctions, what we and some other Philistines would call a healthy-minded, clear-headed young man, he is not long in deciding, on the outbreak of the War, where the path of duty lies. His sister, on the other hand, a convinced Tolstoyan, is one of those perplexing people whose value to the community, very real and obvious in normal times, becomes doubtful amid the stress and strain of war. The pleasant, friendly, intellectual atmosphere of the earlier pages (we had never imagined Manchester in these terms before), provides an effective introduction to the terrible practical problems which are still fresh in all our minds. Yet the crucial moment in Geoffrey's life comes perhaps a little later, when he discovers that the girl whom he wishes to marry is of German nationality. Whether he is right or wrong in deciding that love must override patriotism is, of course, a matter of opinion. But no attempt is made to minimise the misery which necessarily follows. He is killed soon after the marriage, and his young wife, heart-broken, and deeply conscious of the isolation which has succeeded her former popularity, dies on the birth of their child. That hers is a hard case, and that many such may have occurred during the War, no one will attempt to deny. Yet most people will feel that if that time were to come over again, it would still be equally impossible to associate familiarly with persons, who, unless nature were quite dead within them, must with all their hearts have been desiring the consummation which to us was a horror unspeakable.

A SKELETON IN THE CUPBOARD.

St. John of Honeylea. By G. I. Whitham. John Lane. 7s. net.

ONCE more we have the story of a family doom, a hereditary curse following the possessors of abbey lands. The hero, Evelyn St. John, refuses to believe in the curse; the heroine is convinced of its efficacy, and reminds her lover of the fact with a persistency which naturally exasperates him, though she regards his anger with grieved surprise. The author is a believer, and the story works out accordingly, with only one really novel element. This is the personality, if we may so term it, of the beautiful old house of Honeylea, built out of the ruins of a monastery and in the grounds where the monks were martyred. The great house, buried in a nook of the hills as the sites of monasteries were wont to be, first appears to the heir as he comes to take possession. "The trees were all low-growing down the hill to his right, and there, in the peaceful evening glow, with its red roses, red from the river to the roofs, stood Honeylea, among its calling birds, with the long shadows on the lawns, and the drowsy, soothing sound of the water down the steps." Throughout the story the reader never forgets the house, finding himself now in the old banqueting-hall, once the chancel of a church, now in the garret room where the last owner lay sick, and now in the beautiful grounds or by the bathing-place, which for the delectation of the lords of Honeylea has been widened out of the bed of the stream. "Under great beeches, fringed with little ferns, in a maze of scents of earth and wood flowers, with the blackbird and the lark, and a crazy cuckoo close at hand, Evelyn found the Honeylea bathing-place and forgot the world again."

It is small wonder that the heir falls in love with his heritage at first sight, and thus the old house "with no windows to the east" begins to establish its fatal influence over him. The family portraits, the faithful old retainer, and the hereditary breed of horses appear in their proper place, but they are as nothing compared to the fascination of Honeylea itself. It has been well said that it was a profound knowledge of human nature which forbade a man to covet his neighbour's house, placing all other desirable possessions second, and assuredly the love of house and land is deep-rooted in England, and perhaps in the English race more deeply than in any other.

It is a good book, and many interesting people are to be met in it; not the least of whom are two who live only in the descriptions of the neighbours who have known them, "Uncle Charles," and his nephew and successor Cecil, the two last owners of the house. They are perhaps more distinctly drawn than any of the actual characters of the story, which, by the way, ends happily. Considering in how orthodox a manner all has been conducted up to this point, we could have found it in our heart to consign the heir of the wicked St. Johns to a monk's cell, of which more than once there is question. It would have been a harmonious and logical conclusion.

MURDER AND INGENUITY.

The Loudwater Mystery. By Edgar Jepson. Odham. 7s. net.

WE confess to a liking for a good detective tale, and this story, in which an English peer is mysteriously done to death in his country house, is a par-

ticularly good specimen of its class. It presents a mystery that does not lack the essential quality of the mysterious. A publishers' note states that "no one who has read the book in MS. has found the solution of it before twenty pages from the end of the book." The experienced reader, not being accustomed to regard a publisher's "puff" in the light of an affidavit, may not be surprised to discover an indication of the identity of the murderer some one hundred pages earlier in the book. The criminal, however, is an exceptionally wily and skilfully drawn person, and his motives and movements are intricate enough to keep the interest undiminished to the end. If some of the devices are familiar, most of the characters have—what is rare in novels of the kind—an unmistakable touch of life, and much of the dialogue has—what is still more uncommon—a sprightly turn. Here, too, the criminal classes are not encouraged in the dangerous belief that the police are hopelessly stupid. The detective who probes the mystery to the bottom is not a disciple of Sherlock Holmes, but a real constabulary being.

A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

His Second Wife. By Ernest Poole. Macmillan. 3s. net.

ETHEL, the second wife of Joe Lanier, a speculative New York builder, is the sister of his first wife, Amy. In this, there is, of course, nothing nowadays remarkable. But we are rather surprised to find Ethel presiding over her brother-in-law's household during his year of widowhood, an arrangement which seems to combine the advantages of both the old system and the new. In the contrast between these two sisters and the influence which they respectively exercise on Joe Lanier, lies the interest of the story. Amy, though good-tempered and often good-natured, is a thorough worldling, after that peculiarly repellent type which is a speciality in American fiction. Monev. to be poured out like water, is the sole god of her idolatry, and to obtain it she cheerfully sacrifices all the impulses of her husband's artistic conscience. Ethel having a different outlook, devotes herself to the resuscitation of Joe's buried architectural ambitions, and after a hard struggle succeeds in her undertaking. As usual in this class of novel, we are struck by the crude blending of idealism and what on our side of the Atlantic would be called vulgarity. But the author is successful in enlisting our attention and even our sympathy.

A FANTASTIC FARRAGO.

When the Hurly-Burly's Done. By Allen Clarke. Dent. 7s. 6d. net.

MR. CLARKE has added a fresh terror to the pangs of dissolution. Old-fashioned theology, though its eternal bliss might sound a trifle tedious, at latest provided an exciting alternative. But from Mr. Clarke's paradise of long-winded and platitudinous spirits there is no escape; one is bored everywhere and all the time.

Some enlivenment, nevertheless, may be found in the ingenuous situations which he discovers on this side of the veil—and describes in an astounding mixture of slang and fine language, wherein the abundance and strangeness of his adjectives more than balance an unusual scarcity of verbs.

So far, the author merits no more than what he would himself call a "flippant flagellation." As to the



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majority of his spirit-stories, their pious intention is obvious; and criticism can only be silent before what is alleged to be painful personal experience. But there are themes—such as, for instance, the walking of Christ on the Flanders battlefield—which, unless handled with a delicacy not apparent in this book, should be left alone.

MUSIC NOTES

VOCAL AND PIANOFORTE RECITALS.—The approach of the Christmas holidays is now stemming the tide of recitals in some degree; and apparently it is about the only thing that could. But during the past fortnight it was flowing pretty steadily. Mr. Norman Notley, who gave a song recital at Æolian Hall last week, brings out his voice better in French than in English, though his diction in both languages is unusually clear. His singing is a trifle cold, however, and the love song plainly does not suit his temperament. He is cultured, intelligent, and careful, and will be more effective when his style has more *abandon*. Mr. Notley had able assistance from Mr. Herbert Fryer, one of whose songs, 'Geraldine,' he introduced with success.

At his second appearance with the London Symphony Orchestra Mr. Anderson Tyrer gave a mild and unimpressive rendering of Beethoven's 'Emperor' concerto, therein disappointing many who had formed a high opinion of his talent as a pianist. Mere neatness and facility, ordinary prettiness of execution, cannot possibly furnish a satisfactory substitute for the great qualities which this masterpiece demands, and the task of playing it is one not to be lightly undertaken. On the same evening we heard a clever young Scottish pianist, Mr. Bryden Monteith, in part of his recital programme at Wigmore Hall. He combines a crisp, unerring technique with a delicate touch and a nice feeling for *nuances* of tone and colour. Some Debussy pieces he invested with considerable charm, also others by Raff and Chopin; but it was beyond the scope of his particular genius to lend sustained interest to the Sonatine of Ravel, which anyhow is a composition of inordinate length for the beauty or value of its subject-matter.

There were some really good songs in the selection presented by Miss Norah Scott Turner at Wigmore Hall. and the arrangement of the programme showed artistic perception. The singer is a soprano with a voice of agreeable quality—more pleasing in the medium than in the head register, which rather lacks resonance—and an exceptionally sweet *mezza voce*. If not quite dramatic enough for the big air from 'Der Freischütz,' she proved fully equal to the more modern items, notably, two songs by Morfydd Llwyn-Owen, 'To our Lady of Sorrows' and a 'Slumber Song to the Madonna,' which were by no means easy to do justice to. In Sir Edward Elgar's 'Rondel' she also did well; while of a group of *Lieder* (sung in English) by Cornelius and Brahms, the 'Infant Christ' and 'Von ewiger Liebe' had each to be repeated. Parry's 'Whether I live' was taken too slowly; and somehow Mr. Vaughan Williams's 'If I were a Queen' missed the mark, but his 'Boy Johnny'—a fine song—was given with the right spirit. Altogether Miss Turner may be encouraged to go on.

Mr. William Murdoch had a very appreciative audience at Wigmore Hall on Saturday afternoon, and their warmth inspired him to some of the best playing that we have heard from him for a long time. He certainly began well with the three choral Preludes of Bach, arranged by M. Busoni, and the admirable purity and sureness of his phrasing and fingering wholly conquered our feeling of antipathy for paraphrase of Bach of any sort. The Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue also received a clear and resolute interpretation. Passing over the Beethoven sonata and the Norwegian Folk Pictures, which came in the middle of the programme, we may renew our word of praise for Mr. Murdoch's remarkable display of virtuosity in a large group of up-to-date pieces by Debussy, Ravel, and De Severac. All that clever mechanism and nimble fingers could achieve was done to place this complex music in a clear light.

Meanwhile at Queen's Hall Mr. Frederic Lamond was once more expounding Beethoven to a crowd of attentive students, who followed his readings with the obvious respect and enjoyment that one naturally feels for the correct setting forth of the "authorized version." There was nothing otherwise to differentiate it from his previous displays of the kind.

Yet a third recital on the same afternoon was that which concluded Mr. Rosing's ante-Noel Series at the Æolian Hall. In many ways it was the most interesting that this original singer has given. His English may still be an obstacle to pure delight, as he plainly showed in a Purcell air, in Mr. Frank Bridge's beautiful song 'Isobel,' and Mr. Cyril Scott's 'Invocation to Love.' He also demonstrated that French, well pronounced, could breathe romance in Wagner's 'Träume' just as effectively as it sounded *banal* in Brahms's 'An die Nachtigall.' But, as usual, his Russian numbers were beyond reproach; and among these must be included one by Mr. Albert Coates, the conductor, called 'The Song of the Cossack,' in which are reflected with no mean skill the familiar essentials of national idiom and spirit peculiar to Russian music.

Mr. Peter Gawthorne is a baritone with a bright, resonant voice, a free method, and much geniality of style. It follows, therefore, that he is heard to best advantage in songs which demand vigour rather than subtlety of expression; and of these there were, fortunately, several in his programme at Wigmore Hall on Monday afternoon. Mr. Frank Bridge's 'Love went a-riding'

(which now needs a rest), Stanford's 'Cushendall' cycle, and Tchaikovsky's 'Don Juan Serenade' suited him admirably; and so, in a lesser measure, did Schubert's 'Erl-King,' which Mr. Little accompanied in model fashion.

AN EVENING WITH 'FAUST.'—It was a happy thought on the part of Mr. Albert Coates to compile a scheme entirely from music associated with Goethe's great play for the London Symphony Concert at Queen's Hall on Monday evening. The resulting combination yielded some sharp contrasts, but on the whole proved so interesting that the idea may well be considered worthy of extension along cognate lines. Wagner's 'Faust' overture opened and Liszt's 'Faust' symphony concluded the programme. Both were magnificently played, but the latter takes 70 minutes to perform and fully a third of it could easily be spared. The choral finale (male voices) is the finest section, and portions of the Gretchen music are very beautiful. This symphony was last heard in London fifteen years ago, and it may not be heard again for another fifteen. The intervening pieces on Monday were a charming movement by Roger-Ducasse, 'Le Jardin de Marguerite,' and vocal excerpts from Boito's 'Mefistofele' and Berlioz's 'Damnation de Faust,' sung by Mr. John Coates, whose namesake conducted the concert with masterly skill.

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MOTOR NOTES

Continuing our observations on tyre management, we might, perhaps, usefully say a word about those happily rare occasions on which the motorist is obliged to repair a tube by the patching method. Having found the puncture, either by casual inspection or by stretching the tube under water, the surface around it must be carefully cleaned. Petrol can be used for this purpose, but glass paper is more effective if there is much deposit on the tube. Having got the surface perfectly clean, a coating of good rubber solution must be applied, allowing it to extend some distance all round the puncture. This coating can be quite thin, but it should be evenly applied. A wait of some minutes is then necessary to allow the solution to dry, after which two more coatings should be applied at a like interval. The rubber patch must be solutioned in the same way, but if it is of the usual prepared variety it will not require cleaning with petrol or glass paper. A vital point is to wait until the solution is almost dry before applying the patch. A repair of this kind often gives out directly the weight of the car is on the tyre simply because the patch is applied too soon. The patch having in due course been placed upon the tube in such manner that the damaged portion is as near its centre as possible, it should be well pressed down. The pressure of the fingers must be applied from the centre outwards, any tendency the edges may show to curl up being resisted. It is well if possible to leave the repair compressed by a weight for some time before replacing the tube in the cover. The specially prepared patches obtainable from accessory dealers will be found to give more ready adhesion than plain rubber. After a repair is effected the patch and the tube in its vicinity must be generously treated with powdered chalk to prevent sticking to the cover. With a large car tyre it is vitally necessary that special care should be exercised at the points indicated, for one must remember that at the best the patch repair is in the nature of a compromise.

We are glad to observe how the motoring organisations are going ahead in their various schemes for the

benefit of motor owners. Among other progressive activities the Royal Automobile Club are at present keeping a particularly keen eye on all private bills to be presented to Parliament, with a view to ascertaining whether these contain provisions that are inimical to users of motor vehicles. The Club, we are advised, would be glad if private motorists who have knowledge of the projected introduction of bills on behalf of local authorities would write to the Secretary, especially if they know these measures to bear upon motoring interests in any way. It is certainly a fact that in almost every session of Parliament bills are presented which prejudice motoring interests either directly or indirectly. In a recent instance, we remember, the R.A.C. was able to successfully resist the endeavour of a certain local authority to obtain powers for imposing extra costs for water used for motor washing purposes. Many similar cases have received the attention of the Club, and in practically all of them it has been found possible to effect modifications of substantial advantage to motorists generally.

While there is a good deal to be said in favour of amalgamating the road organisations of the two principal motoring bodies, we do not think that any motorist is wise in remaining unassociated with them because he observes a certain amount of overlapping or rivalry. We know from practical experience that both the R.A.C. and the A.A. offer very tangible benefits to their members, and the subscription for Associate-membership of the R.A.C. and full membership of the A.A. is little more than nominal. Legal advice and defence, touring and technical assistance, and the services of uniformed men on the road are common with other advantages to both. It is, of course, likely that one may pay one's subscription to either or both of these bodies for years on end and never claim all the advantages they offer. But in certain respects such as the provision of legal defence and of assistance in the case of accident or breakdown on the road, a single claim on one's privileges may save one great expense and inconvenience.

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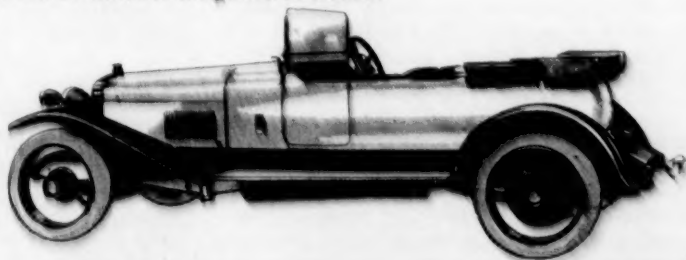
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EXTENSIVE AMALGAMATION SCHEME.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the shareholders of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, was held at Liverpool on Monday for the purpose of considering a resolution for the increase of capital necessitated by the proposed acquisition of the business of Messrs. Cocks, Biddulph and Company of London, the Palatine Bank, Limited, and the Halifax Commercial Banking Co., Ltd.

Mr. Edward Paul, Chairman of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, presided over a numerous attendance.

The Resolution submitted by the Directors was read by Mr. Crooks, Solicitor to the Bank. It provided for the increase of the capital from £16,371,120 to £18,791,120 by the creation of new shares of £20 each, £12 of which should not be capable of being called up except in the event and for the purposes of the Company being wound up.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the resolution. He said the three Banks with which it was proposed to amalgamate were of moderate size but the importance of the proposed arrangements was not to be measured by size. In the case of Cocks, Biddulph and Company the importance of the amalgamation lay in the fact that it was essential for the Bank of Liverpool and Martins to obtain an opening in the West End of London and exactly in the locality where Messrs. Cocks, Biddulph and Company's office was situated. By acquiring the business and premises in question the Bank at once attained the position it required and was not exposed to loss in establishing a West End business. The firm of Cocks, Biddulph and Company, which had been in existence since before the year 1759 had always borne an honourable and respected name, and its clientele was of an eminently desirable type. It was expected not only that the business from the outset would be on a paying basis but that it would rapidly grow by the additional connection which the Bank of Liverpool and Martins could introduce. He felt sure the shareholders would not only approve of the amalgamation, but would welcome the addition to the London Board of Mr. Edward Lygon Somers Cocks and the Hon. John Michael Gordon Biddulph, two of the partners of the firm, who, with the Hon. Thomas Henry Frederick Egerton, would still continue to conduct the business at 43, Charing Cross.

With regard to the amalgamation with the Palatine Bank the reason which had led them to approach that Bank was similar. For many years they had felt the want of an office in Manchester, but having been admirably served by their two agents in that city—the Williams Deacon's Bank and the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company—they had refrained from opening in Manchester. Their customers, however, especially in the Craven district, had repeatedly pointed out the inconvenience caused to them by the absence of a branch in Manchester, and a considerable amount of business had passed away in consequence of not being established there. The Directors, therefore, decided that whether by opening a branch or by amalgamation the Bank must have a Manchester office of its own. The difficulty of securing premises and the fact that if entry into Manchester were obtained by opening a branch they might be exposed to loss for some years, led the Directors to seek an entry by amalgamation with the Palatine. By this amalgamation they would also secure an opening in other places where the Palatine Bank had branches, in none of which the Bank of Liverpool and Martins was at present established.

In addition to any advantage which the shareholders of the combined Bank might derive from the amalga-

mation, the advantage to the customers of both Banks would be considerable. Their own customers would enjoy additional facilities in Manchester and other manufacturing centres where the Palatine Bank had branches, and the customers of the Palatine Bank would gain by the additional financial power of the combined Bank and the increased facilities it would afford them through the North of England and in London. Further, the business relations between Liverpool and Manchester, already intimate, would be fostered by the amalgamation. None of the offices and none of the activities of the two Banks would overlap and the area of the Palatine Bank practically adjoined that of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins in the manufacturing district of Lancashire. They proposed to apply the principle of local autonomy which they had successfully applied in other districts, and they believed this would help not only to preserve but to steadily increase the influence and connection of the Bank in the Manchester area. The Chairman of the Palatine Bank would join the General Board of the combined Bank and the present Board of the Palatine Bank, with the addition of one or two new members to be appointed by the General Board, would continue to administer the business in the Manchester district. Mr. Woodhouse, the present able General Manager of the Palatine Bank, would become the District General Manager in that area.

With regard to the Halifax Commercial Banking Co., Ltd., the acquisition of that Bank would add some very important points to the places in which the Bank of Liverpool and Martins were already established in Yorkshire. The Halifax Bank had offices at Leeds, Hull, Dewsbury, and fourteen other places in Yorkshire, and the only place at which the two Banks overlapped was Bradford. Customers would find the extension in Yorkshire a great facility and the Directors believed the amalgamation would lead in time to a very considerable extension of the business of the combined Bank. In this case also the principle of local autonomy would apply, and the present Board of the Halifax Bank, with additional members to be nominated by the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, would constitute a Local Board for the administration of the business hitherto carried on at the offices of the Halifax Bank. The Chairman of that Bank would also join the General Board of the combined Bank and the General Manager of the Halifax Bank would become Halifax District General Manager of the combined Bank with the assistance of his present colleagues and staff.

Details of fees and personal payments to be made to the Directors and General Managers of the Palatine Bank and the Halifax Commercial Banking Company were fully set out in the circular accompanying the notice of this meeting.

With regard to the Managers and Members of the staffs of all three Banks they would be received into the joint service on the conditions of their present service with their respective Banks and the full benefits of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins Pension and Insurance Schemes would be extended to them. The result of the three amalgamations would not be to make at once any material increase in the figures of Capital or Balance Sheet, but the potential importance of all was very considerable, and he had no doubt that as in the case of all the other amalgamations the Bank of Liverpool and Martins had made, they would find abundant reason to be satisfied with the step which they now confidently asked the shareholders to sanction.

Mr. Isaac H. Storey seconded the resolution, and there being no questions or comments it was carried unanimously.—Mr. F. C. Bowring proposed and Capt. Holford Harrison seconded a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was duly carried.—The Chairman, in acknowledgment, expressed pleasure that the shareholders had assented so readily to the amalgamation proposal put before them, as he was sure they would find it would prove to be in the best interests of the Bank.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON, LIMITED.

A GENERAL MEETING of the holders of Preference shares of the Commercial Bank of London, Ltd., was held on 11th December at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, W.C., to consider a resolution for the reconstruction of the company, and the reorganisation of its capital. The Right Hon. Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bart. (the chairman), presided.

In moving the necessary resolution the Chairman remarked that business had expanded so satisfactorily and rapidly that it was now desirable to increase the capital, and the board was of opinion that the opportunity should be taken to consolidate the capital into one class of share, as Deferred shares of the nominal value of 1s. were an undesirable form of capital for a banking company of their magnitude and reputation. The simplest and most economical way of carrying out those proposals was to form an entirely new company with one class of share, and, as stated in the reconstruction scheme, that new company would have a nominal capital of £5,000,000 in shares of £1 each, of which it was proposed to issue 3,500,000 shares.

Of those shares 2,250,000 would be issued immediately, 975,000 to existing shareholders, and 1,275,000 by public subscriptions. The terms of exchange were that 975,000 shares were reserved to be offered share for share for each existing share, whether Preference or Deferred, and, in addition, each Preference share would receive a cash payment of 2s. 6d. and each Deferred share 4s. On December 30, moreover, each share would receive a full six months' dividend, making a total cash payment of 3s. 2½d. and 4s. 8d. respectively. The Board had decided further that of the balance of 3,500,000 shares of the present authorised issue—namely, 1,250,000 shares, 975,000 should be reserved for shareholders of the old company, and for this purpose option certificates would be issued, giving the right to take up one new share at par for each share held at present, at any time within the next twelve months. These option certificates should constitute a further additional bonus to the old shareholders.

As to the way in which Preference shareholders would be affected if they accepted the proposed scheme, he would point out that the actual future amount of profits which would be available for distribution would be much larger than it could be with their present capital, and each old Preference shareholder would be entitled to his full share of those profits instead of having to give up three-quarters of them to another class of shareholders. The sacrifice of Preferential rights would be balanced by the surrender by the Deferred shareholders of their large participation in the surplus profits, after payment of the fixed dividends. By accepting the scheme the Preference shareholders have gained a very real benefit by the surrender of a rather illusory one, and from answers received in reply to the circular it was evident that the proposals were acceptable to a large majority of Preference shareholders.

To increase their profit, and at the same time to increase their divisible ratio, it was necessary to enlarge the capital. The Board was confident that, with the additional strength which the new capital would give, they would, from the commencement, be able to pay larger dividends on each individual share than would be possible under existing conditions for a very long time. To carry through the great transactions which had been negotiated in the past two years they had repeatedly had to borrow on terms which had involved the surrender of a large portion of their profit. The amount so given up by the Bank would alone have sufficed to pay a quite satisfactory dividend on the new company's issued capital of £3,250,000. He would add that the transactions of the Bank were in no sense speculative. The Commercial Bank of London had now developed into an industrial bank, combining at once some of the best features of the German system, the elasticity of the old-fashioned private banker, and the latest improvements of modern joint stock banking, and they had managed to seize and occupy a unique position in the financial world, to consolidate which was one of the objects of the increase of capital.

Mr. Clarence Hatry (the managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried.

LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING

The Earl of Wemyss presided on the 15th inst. at the Great Eastern Hotel, E.C., at the annual general meeting of this company; and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the balance on profit and loss account was almost exactly the same as was the case last year, but in arriving at the balance it should be noted that £4,895, cost of wireless installations incurred in previous years, had been written off, and the sum of £4,300, cost of doing part survey of the steamer Rio Preto was also included. Moreover, the results had been obtained with fewer ships and at far greater working costs than in the case of previous years. Dividends from investments showed an increase of £9,593, and amounted in all to £23,274. At first blush, the criticism that that sum of £23,000 seemed a poor return on the amount of money invested in the Thompson and Leander Companies seemed to be supported by facts, so he would take the opportunity, as the balance-sheet could not make the matter clear, of reviewing these transactions. In August, 1916, the directors purchased for £331,711 the Leander Steamship Company, which, in addition to its steamers, had cash and liquid assets amounting to £105,527. The result in the case of that investment was that the London-American Maritime Steamship Company had, in just under three years, shown a capital appreciation of over £72,000, in addition to returning £87,086 in dividends. As to the Thompson Company, that investment in one year and four months showed a capital appreciation of about £190,000, in addition to having paid £13,71s in dividends. The Thompson Company's financial year ended on December 31st, so that there was only an interim dividend credited in respect of this year. The debit side of the accounts disclosed a decrease in legal charges attributable to the fact that last year's accounts included the legal expenses of the Rio arbitration. The general interest showed an increase of £13,404, and the steamship cost account had been reduced to £166,500 as the result of the sale of the steamers Rio Blanco, Royal Sceptre and Euterpe. That amount of £166,500 was the book value of the steamers Rio Preto and Benwood, and was much below their market value. The proceeds of the vessels sold had been utilised in paying off the loan against security, and in reducing the amount on loan from Messrs. Petersen and Co., Ltd., by £74,222, and from the Thompson and Leander Companies by £14,671. The special reserve had been increased by £102,576 to a total of £191,000. The accounts showed that £35,415 had been received in respect of the issue of the balance of the company's ordinary capital, namely 50,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, which were offered to the shareholders at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share. As one of the conditions of lending £100,000 in connection with the purchase of the Thompson Line, Messrs. Petersen and Co., Ltd., had received an option on those 50,000 shares at £1 2s. 6d.—the current quotation. At the time the permission of the Treasury to issue those shares was given, the price, mainly owing to the acquisition of the Thompson Company, had appreciated to about 38s., but, although Messrs. Petersen would have been perfectly entitled to exercise that option, they thought it was not right, in view of the great appreciation, to do so, and the shares were offered to the shareholders pro rata according to their holdings. As the shares had now risen by over £1, and the allotment was equivalent to 25 per cent. of each shareholding, it was obvious that it really amounted to an extra 25 per cent., and he was sure that Messrs. Petersen were entitled to the gratitude of the shareholders. The available balance was £52,003, and the board were proposing a final dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and were recommending that the supplementary dividend to the preference shareholders should be at the rate of 3 per cent., instead of 1½ per cent., as previously recommended by the directors.

The report and accounts were adopted.

Mr. William Petersen, then addressed the meeting, and said the shareholders would admit that the predictions he made last year that the coming year would be an improvement on the past had been fulfilled. The Company had never been stronger than it was to-day.

NORTHERN EXPLORATION COMPANY (LIMITED).

THE ADJOURNED EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Northern Exploration Company (Limited) was held on the 16th inst. in London, Commander C. E. Evans presiding.

The Chairman, after expressing regret at the absence of Mr. F. L. Davis, the chairman of the company, through indisposition, first referred to the more important items appearing in the balance-sheet, and pointed out that the authorised capital of the company now stood at £500,000 in shares of £1 each. Regarding the future suzerainty of Spitsbergen under Norway, he said it was a tremendous shock to his colleagues and himself when they read in the *Times* on September 26 last a notification to the effect that the report of the Spitsbergen Commission, sitting in Paris, placing Spitsbergen under the suzerainty of Norway, had been approved. A very important letter, however, had been received from the Foreign Office, under the date of October 4 last, which showed that all safeguards were provided for, so that the company could remain in undisturbed possession of their legitimately acquired interests, and that they could work them in their own way, according to British methods and without excessive payments for taxes, royalties, etc. He was convinced that theirs was going to be a venture with a brilliant future. It would take more than a generation to effect even a partial consummation of the mineral riches which apparently lay within the Arctic Circle in the islands of Spitsbergen.

The titles to the larger portion of the company's territory were absolutely clear, and there did not appear to be any serious claimants in the other parts. There was one particular case of trespass, however, by Norwegians to which he was bound to refer, and that was by the King's Bay Coal Company, which claimed territory containing coal within a few miles of this company's famous marble deposits. When he told the shareholders that before the war Norway had practically no mining interests of any kind, nor did she attempt to develop the very small claims which she had before 1914—and it was only when this country was embroiled in war and the Northern Exploration Company were prevented from having access to their territory that serious mining operations were attempted—they would see that they indubitably had the prior claim.

An operating Norwegian company—the *Store Norske Coal Company*—was formed in the year 1916, and had a capital of £583,000. They acquired their property from the Arctic American Coal Company. They commenced serious mining operations in the year 1916, and had paid dividends from the first year of their operations and every year since. During the year 1918 they shipped about 40,000 tons of coal to Norway, and for 1919 the output was 50,325 tons, and they paid a dividend of 7 per cent. Another operating company was the *Svenska Kolfält Company* at Braganza Bay, which did likewise. This company had a share capital of £228,000, and shipped about 4,000 tons of coal last year. The Northern Exploration Company held a considerable interest in the shares of that company. The directors had recently met representatives here of Norwegian companies, and they showed a very friendly desire to work in harmony with them, and it was possible that in the early future a vast amalgamation of all the interests in Spitsbergen might take place. Regarding the extension of the company's claims, it would be interesting to the shareholders to know that the total area now claimed by the Northern Exploration Company was over 5,000 square miles.

During the present year an expedition, composed of expert geologists and mining engineers, had visited the company's territories in Spitsbergen and made an exhaustive inspection. Since their return to this country, a few weeks ago, they had completed very full reports, and these had been embodied in the report of the company's consulting engineer, Mr. William Selkirk, whose conclusions the shareholders now had in their possession, together with that of Mr. Leach, the company's marble expert. As Mr. Selkirk rightly pointed out, he and his geologists, who comprised some of the ablest men in this country and the United States, although in every case men of extraordinary energy, were only able to cover a fringe of the company's territory, yet he was convinced that they had very great possibilities before them.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the directors' report and accounts for the eighteen months ended June 30, 1919.

Mr. G. Dudley Smith seconded the resolution.

Mr. Jago congratulated the board on the excellent results shown already and the vast possibilities which lay before the company, and he expressed approval of the proposed increase of the capital to a million sterling. As coming from a coalmining centre he could appreciate the vast coal deposits possessed by the company. As these could be worked on the adit system there would be no delay and a minimum of expense. He also particularly referred to the asbestos deposits, which he regarded as of great value.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the resolution to increase the capital of the company to £1,000,000 was carried unanimously.

LONDON AND RIVER BANK.

CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE BUSINESS.

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING of the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd., was held on the 16th inst., at 7, Princes Street, E.C., Mr. Follett Holt, M.Inst.C.E., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. R. Hutchinson) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the countries in which the bank operated in South America had been and were passing through a period of progress and prosperity in which the bank had had its share, and very rightly, as it was a part of the economic machinery through which this prosperity was created and secured. A comparison of the balance-sheet submitted with the previous one showed how largely the business had increased in all its branches and how very strong was the position of the bank. On the assets side they had no less than £16,500,000 in cash and £31,000,000 in bills and advances and investments. The business had shown such expansion that they had required their resources in active circulation. The investments, therefore, represented only a comparatively small amount, and they were saved any worry on account of the shrinkage in value which had been taking place with securities of even the most gilt-edged character. On the other side of the balance-sheet they had in current account and on deposit at head office and at their various branches over £36,000,000; acceptances amounted to £4,110,000, an increase of £1,640,000, while bills for collection amounted to £5,970,000. These figures were records, and the large turnover of the year, after making conservative provision for all contingencies, had enabled them to show a net distributable profit of £505,000, being £105,000 better than in the preceding year.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS.

This good result had enabled the directors to recommend the payment of a final dividend, making the dividend for the year equal to 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital, absorbing £270,000. This was the same as last year's distribution, but they further proposed to capitalise practically out of the balance of the year's profits, the sum of £240,000 by adding £2 per share to the amount paid up on the shares of the bank. The £25 shares would then be £17 paid, the liability of the shareholders being reduced from £10 to £8 per share. After this operation had been completed they would carry forward to the current year £319,325, being only £4,432 less than the amount brought in. The capitalisation from earnings of this £240,000 meant that this sum would remain permanently in the business, which was always expanding and calling for more capital, and the addition to their capital would, in turn, enable them to increase their earning power and general usefulness. The association with Lloyds Bank had proved most satisfactory.

POSITION IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Remarking that the branches of the bank up to the present had been confined to four of the ten South American Republics—Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay—the Chairman proceeded to deal with the position in each of these countries. He said that the internal wealth of the Argentine had immensely increased during the past few years, and the Republic was passing through an era of great prosperity. The country was the happy possessor of no less than £77,000,000 in gold, which was lodged in the Conversion Office or held by Argentine Legations abroad, and this represented a gold backing to the paper currency of no less than 74.8 per cent.—an enviable position in these times. During the past year, with the release of shipping from war uses, the export of cereals had been largely increased, and the accumulation of stocks had been very much reduced. Producing, as the Argentine did, the foodstuffs and raw material for clothing which were the crying needs of Europe, there could be no possible anxiety for its future, given internal peace and social progress—essential factors which were fortunately fully realised by the Government in power. It was impossible for those who knew Brazil to speak of the potentialities of the country in any but enthusiastic terms. Unlike other South American countries, Brazil was hampered during the war in her exports, for coffee was not looked upon as an essential, and sufficient shipping could not be allocated to carry the crops. On the other hand, a great impetus was given to the cattle-raising industry by the demand of her Allies for meat during the war, and now there was little doubt but that in a few years' time Brazil would become one of the largest meat-exporting countries, as she was to-day the largest coffee exporter for foreign needs. During recent months, as shipping had become more normal, it had been possible to carry the stocks of coffee, and the increased value of exports far exceeded the imports.

BREAKING NEW GROUND.

The directors fully realised that if we were to increase our foreign trade, which was absolutely essential to the economic and social stability of our country, British banking and financial facilities must be available in those countries where they were lacking. They had, therefore, in this good cause, decided to break new ground, and had arranged to open a branch in Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, and going to the far north of the Continent, a branch also at Bogotá, the capital of Colombia. In both these countries there were British enterprises well established, railways and navigation companies and traders, and they hoped to be of service to these and to newcomers, and, above all, to be of assistance to the Paraguayans and Colombians, and all who did business in those promising countries where the bank's advent had been so warmly welcomed.

Sir Richard V. Vassar-Smith, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the dividend recommended was declared.

THE CITY

The final report of the Cunliffe Committee on Currency and Exchanges has aroused no enthusiasm in the City. By comparison with the somewhat verbose interim report it is chiefly remarkable for its brevity. Its recommendations break no new ground, and the conclusion is that the principles of sound finance are unalterable. The Government has promptly accepted the recommendation that this year's maximum fiduciary issue of Treasury notes shall be next year's legal maximum; but as that permits the expansion of the present issue by nine millions, the arrangement does not impose a very serious check upon the uncovered note issue. At present the amount of Currency Notes outstanding is £342,000,000 with a "backing" of £28,500,000 in gold, and £3,100,000 in Bank of England notes.

Home Rails have come into renewed demand on the impending increase in freight rates, which, it is hoped, will compensate for the enormous rise in wages since the beginning of the war. At current quotations the majority of junior Home railway stocks give a yield of 7 to 8½ per cent. on the basis of 1918 dividends. The yield on North Westerns at 90 is about 7½ per cent., on Great Westerns at 88½ about 8½ per cent., on Brighton Deferred at 56 about 8 per cent., and on Midland Deferred at 5½ about 7½ per cent.

New capital issues are now so many and various that investors can afford to discriminate very carefully before subscribing. Recent appeals for public support have been particularly mixed. Gardiner Shipbuilding and Engineering is a company which proposes to perform a miracle by creating a shipbuilding industry on a large scale on the south coast. One might as well try to introduce cotton into Newcastle or wool into Bristol to compete with Manchester and Bradford. The company is issuing £400,000 of the latest kind of preference shares—8 per cent. cumulative and participating. As the entire capital is £600,000 and the balance is in ordinary shares, it would be more candid to describe the preference as ordinary, and the ordinary as deferred shares. The going concern at Poole which is being taken over is valued at £390,649, of which sum more than one-third is represented by "work in progress on uncompleted contracts." The purchase price is £450,000 of which £250,000 will be paid in cash and the balance in ordinary shares. The vendors then will hand back £150,000 to the company "to cover a like sum expended out of contract monies," an arrangement concerning which some further information might be given. Then there is an estimate of profits, but as it is provided by two of the directors of the company who are also vendors to the company, their calculations do not carry the weight which would attach to an independent analysis of costs and profits. In a word, these preference shares are nothing more than a speculation, and they lack the speculative attractions of oil or gold shares.

The rush of new insurance companies has not quite subsided, although some of the issues have had a cold reception. The company with the title, United General Commercial Insurance Corporation, and a capital of £1,000,000 is a rather curious promotion. It has acquired a concern known as the United Sickness and Accident General Insurance Co. This is a very small and unimportant office not mentioned in the usual financial reference works, but apparently it has been accepting business during the last few years. How much has been paid for the acquisition of this business is not stated in the advertisements, but that, at any rate, is the basis for the formation of a company with a capital of £1,000,000, of which £500,000 is being issued and £250,000 called up. In view of the fact that some of the recent insurance issues are practically unsaleable on the Stock Exchange no special attraction attaches to this one.

One of the many remarkable examples of financial expansion in the last three years has been that of the Commercial Bank of London. This house has engaged largely in the financing and development of commercial concerns, particularly in shipbuilding, and also in other industries. It has been very successful in this business, and its success is being marked by an increase in the capital to £5,000,000 and the issue of new shares to provide for further developments in the financial and industrial fields. The bank appears to be fulfilling the profitable duty of assisting trade and commerce on the lines strongly urged by many critics of the big joint stock institutions. This is the "more adventurous" banking, and evidently it pays.

We remarked recently that in the fusion of insurance companies the absorbed shareholders generally have the best of the bargain. This is so in the case of the Phoenix-Norwich Union scheme. The shareholders of the latter company receive shares worth £140 for shares recently quoted at £90; their dividend will be raised from £2 10s. to £6 per exchanged share, and they will be relieved of a liability of £22 on each old share. At the same time the Phoenix shareholders will get a bonus worth about 10s. per share, and their dividend will be raised from 11s. to 12s. per share per annum. So all parties should be pleased.

The arrangement made between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau for the issue of a French loan in London was a surprise to the City. Without discussion to France, it is felt that Great Britain has financial problems of her own without becoming further involved in the financial complexities of her Allies. And it is asked, Why does not America take a hand in this business? The exchange difficulty is more a matter of dollars than anything else. As a British loan to France has been agreed upon, it will remain for financial experts to arrange terms and date. There are two essentials, one that the proceeds of the loan be employed in paying for British exports, and the other that interest and principal shall be guaranteed at a fixed rate of exchange.

The New Egyptian Company has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., the first interim dividend since 1904. The Company has been selling land at very large profits, and the general business is in a flourishing condition. A dividend of 10 per cent. for the year is more than assured. The 15s. shares have recently risen to 30s., subsequently slipping back to 25s. The break-up value of the assets at the present time is about £2 a share.

Thanks to the Stock Exchange Committee the shareholders in the Dunlop Rubber Company will receive "renunciation" letters in connection with the offer of 1,000,000 new shares at £8 each. This will enable shareholders who are financially unable to buy the new shares to sell their rights of application. The effect of the issue will be to add £1,000,000 to capital and about £7,000,000 to reserves, and it is more than probable that a bonus will be distributed later by the capitalisation of these reserves. Dunlop shares should be held.

Courtaulds are distributing a share-for-share bonus, but this will by no means exhaust the company's reserves, and the shares will look very attractive when they are quoted ex-bonus. A revival of demand has come in for Brunner-Mond and for Castner-Kellner shares, though perhaps too much importance should not be attached to vague rumours of amalgamation. Magadi Soda shares have recovered sharply to the accompaniment of rumours of buying by Levers.

Brazil proposes to levy a five per cent. tax on dividends paid by companies operating in the Republic. This would affect such undertakings as the San Paulo Railway, the Leopoldina Railway, and Brazil Traction. It is an imposition to which shareholders naturally object, and if the proposal is carried out, it will shut off the flow of British capital to Brazil.

GEO. H. HIRST & CO., (LTD.)

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT YEAR

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Geo. H. Hirst and Co. (Limited) was held on the 18th inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Arthur Hirst (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Jos. Blackburn) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, with your consent, I will take the balance-sheet submitted to the shareholders as read. The result of the past year's trading is very satisfactory, and your directors feel justified in recommending a dividend, which I am sure will meet with your approval. The past year has been full of difficulties, which I am pleased to say have been overcome by the great assistance received from my co-directors and the staff, and I wish to thank them all for the loyal support that they have rendered to me. We have had the full benefit this year of the extensions we made a year ago, and have on order more machinery and further extensions, which we hope to get completed during the next few months, and which will still further increase our output and help us to maintain our profits. We have also improved and are improving our present plant and keeping it up to date. This, we consider, is essential in all progressive businesses.

The prospects for the next year are, so far as one can see, very satisfactory. We have got back most of our export trade, and, with the further extensions in view, we hope to be able to increase this branch of our business considerably. In considering the accounts you will observe that the profit for the year, after making full depreciations and also reserving the amount payable for excess profits duty, leaves us a distributable balance of £69,188 2s. 10d., including the amount brought forward from last year of £10,714 9s. 1d. From this sum we have already paid the fixed dividend on Preference shares, amounting to £1,750, together with the fixed dividend on the Preferred Ordinary shares, amounting to £12,800. An available balance of £54,638 2s. 10d. is left for our disposal, and your directors recommend for division amongst the Preferred and Deferred Ordinary shares the sum of £62,000, which will represent a dividend of 1s. 9d. per share on the Preferred shares and 2s. 9 3-5d. per share on the Deferred shares, leaving £12,638 2s. 10d. to be carried forward to next year's account.

REORGANISATION OF CAPITAL.

Your directors have had under careful consideration for some time past a scheme for the reconstruction of the capital of the company, their intention being to bring the nominal capital of the company more into conformity with the value of the company's assets. It has not been possible to complete the scheme in time for it to be dealt with concurrently with this meeting, but your directors expect to be in a position to put the scheme before the shareholders in a few weeks' time. Briefly, I may say that the intention is to exchange the existing 5s. Preferred Ordinary shares for a similar number of shares of the nominal value of £1, fully paid, and to increase the nominal value of the Deferred Ordinary shares to such an amount as the valuation of the assets may justify. Although I cannot state this amount definitely, we anticipate that the Deferred Ordinary shareholders will also receive a fully-paid share of the nominal value of £1 in exchange for each Deferred share of 1s. now held. I now propose, "That the directors' report and accounts to August 31, 1919, as submitted to this meeting, be and they are hereby received and adopted"; and I call upon Mr. Pelham-Clinton to second this motion.

Mr. H. Pelham-Clinton, in seconding the motion, said he did not think it was necessary for him to add anything to what the chairman had said. He would, however, like to tell the shareholders that in Mr. Arthur Hirst, their chairman, they had a gentleman who devoted the whole of his time and attention to the interests of the company, and from conversations which he (the speaker) had had with Mr. Arthur Hirst on the business of the company, he felt sure that their prospects were excellent and that the concern was extremely well-managed.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

DIVIDENDS.

The Chairman next moved that a final dividend of 1s. 9d. per share on the Preferred Ordinary shares and 2s. 9 3-5d. per share on the Deferred Ordinary shares in respect of the year ended August 31 last be declared payable forthwith.

Mr. William Webb, J.P., said he had much pleasure in seconding that resolution. He was sure that the shareholders would agree that the past year's working of the company had been exceedingly successful, and that the division of profits which was proposed would be acceptable to every member of the concern. It would be seen from the balance-sheet that this was the twenty-first year of the company's existence as a limited liability company, and he thought that, although some of them had grown old in its service, shareholders would agree, in view of the results submitted, that they were none the less useful to the business. They were looking forward in future to being able to submit even better results. He believed that the extension to which the chairman had referred would add to the turnover, increase the profits for distribution among the shareholders and be an advantage to their workpeople, of every grade and class. The balance-sheet bore the hall-mark of sound progress.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in moving the re-election of Messrs. H. Pelham-Clinton and G. M. Hirst as directors of the company, remarked that Mr. Pelham-Clinton's qualifications were so well known that it was not necessary for him to make any remarks in the recommendation of that gentleman's re-election to the board. Mr. G. M. Hirst was his (the speaker's) eldest son, who joined the directorate in March, having done very excellent service in the Army and proved himself a leader of men. He had every confidence in recommending that he be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. Joseph Blackburn seconded the motion, and said that the financial ability of Mr. Pelham-Clinton was well known to the shareholders. Mr. G. M. Hirst did nobly with our armies in France, and not only won the Croix de Guerre but also the M.C. He was coming into the business with great ardour and enthusiasm, and he (the speaker) had the greatest confidence in Mr. G. M. Hirst proving himself a worthy son of a worthy father.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

The auditors (Messrs. Armitage and Norton) having been re-appointed,

Mr. E. B. Montesole moved a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his very able and exceptional management of the company's affairs during the past year. Those who came into contact with him knew what an able pioneer and a practical expert he was in the particular industry—and a very great industry in Yorkshire—in which the company was engaged. The shareholders had every confidence in his administration of the affairs of the company.

The motion was duly seconded and unanimously approved.

The Chairman briefly replied, and the proceedings terminated.